

Carrier force sails as US increases pressure on Libya

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Reagan Administration yesterday increased sharply its campaign of psychological pressure against Libya...



A skier's view of Innsbruck in Austria during practice at the Beig Ist site for today's ski-jumping event there in the World Cup series

Britain's reserves plunge by \$416m

By David Smith Economics Correspondent Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves recorded the biggest fall for three years last month...

INSIDE



Desert island discord



Police man on the beat



Looking over Jordan

Future of the package

MONDAY



The city that still trembles

When the men come first

Portfolio £22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today...

Madrid may get special role in Nato

Spain's withdrawal from Nato would cause a very grave weakening of the alliance...

Ban on service for activist

A memorial service for the South African civil rights campaigner, Mrs Molly Blackburn...

Bank raid claim

A bank cashier helped to plan a robbery at her own bank and was later awarded £1,750 compensation...

Gartcosh March

Scottish steelworkers left Gartcosh steel plant in Lanarkshire on a 450-mile march to London...

Reagan mission

President Reagan flew to a summit in Mexico likely to be dominated by his policy on arms measures to avert a nuclear war...

Air crash kills plot officers

A group of Nigerian officers held on coup plot charges were killed when a plane bringing them to Lagos crashed at Kaduna...

Year of hope

Despite setbacks in the City in 1985, the experts reveal expectations for the investor of a bullish New Year for Britain...

Heysel switch

Three of the senior police officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty...

Lonrho closure

Mr Roland "Ray" Rowland's Lonrho has closed its steel-rolling subsidiary, Teledyne, in Northamptonshire...

Drug epidemic

Drug abuse increased around the world last year, despite tough counter-measures in many countries...

250 lose jobs

Commodore International, the American home computer company, has closed its production lines in Corby, Northamptonshire...

Farley puzzle

Scientists fear they may never find the source of the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory...

India hit 600

Three batsmen scored centuries as India amassed a total of 600 for four wickets declared against Australia in the third final Test at Sydney...

Westland warned of £1bn loss if US deal is backed

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Westland could lose more than £1 billion worth of European business if the helicopter company's shareholders opt for the United Technologies bid...

2,800 jobs expected from boat orders

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

The orders for submarines and torpedoes worth about £900m announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence, expected to create about 2,800 new jobs...

Cricket officials await reactions on ban

English cricket authorities were still waiting to hear last night whether there were to be further repercussions around the world following Bangladesh's decision to ban four English players with South African connections...

Sinn Fein candidate to fight poll from cell

Provisional Sinn Fein has nominated Mr Owen Carron, the former MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, to fight this month's by-election from his prison cell...

Labour to pin hopes on manufacturing

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The Labour Party leader Mr Neil Kinnock will this month spearhead a co-ordinated effort by senior members of the shadow Cabinet to convince the electorate that it offers the best chance of regenerating the British economy...

Britons retain posts on EEC commission

The two British EEC commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis successfully fought off attempts to reduce their responsibilities in the new commission...

Are you leaving your heirs more tax than capital?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing. But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of Capital Transfer Tax...

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Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Events, Features. Includes sub-sections like Law Report, Leading articles, and Religion.

Union gives firm right to leading role in secret ballot process

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Union officials have reached an agreement with an American-owned company which provides for a secret ballot before industrial action, with the company playing a leading role in the ballot process.

The agreement between Caterpillar Tractor Company and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is unusual because the company will have to agree to the wording of the ballot paper, is able to set out its position in a statement accompanying the ballot paper and will pay the administration costs.

Union and management reached the deal at the company's plant at Deeside, near Leicester, where about 450 manual workers are employed. It is part of a wide-ranging agreement, stretching over two years, which introduces fundamental changes in working practices.

An eight-grade pay structure covering 31 job titles is reduced to five grades with only 12 job descriptions, linked to a greater degree of flexibility. In return employees have received a 7 per cent pay increase plus a £200 lump sum, and later this year are guaranteed a 5 per cent rise with another one-off payment of £200.

The deal is a further example of the growing willingness of trade union negotiators to reach agreements lasting more than the traditional 12 months, and

Search for Stonehenge festival site fails

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The search for a peaceful site for the Stonehenge pop festival has failed, English Heritage, which owns the monument, said yesterday.

However, one of the co-ordinators of the hippy convoy which annually visits Stonehenge for the summer solstice festival gave a warning of "a month of aggravation" in June. Last year's event was marred by violent clashes with the police, and English Heritage had hoped to find a site near the ancient stones for the main convoy. About 1,000 people would then have been admitted to the stone circle, probably by ticket.

"We have had to call the whole thing off. It is very difficult to divide people up and let them in on the basis of whether they are a druid or not," a spokesman for English Heritage said.

The plan for an alternative site near the stones was opposed by the Wiltshire police and members of the county council, while local landowners refused to offer land.

The convoy co-ordinator, who declined to be named, said that the festival would definitely go ahead in June on a larger scale than last year. Their would also be similar, smaller festivals at the summer and autumn equinoxes and at the winter solstice.

"They will have four head-aches instead of one", he said. English Heritage said that a meeting on the search for a suitable site planned for Monday would still be held even though there was nothing to offer the festival-goers.



Gartosh steelworkers begin their protest march to London yesterday

SDP deeply divided over advertising on BBC

A division between leading members of the Social Democrats over whether the BBC should continue to be supported by a licence fee or by advertising is to be settled after a full debate at the party's conference later this month. This is the first time in the five years of the party's existence that such a step has been taken.

Two distinct and evenly balanced bodies of opinion emerged when the issue was debated by the party's policy committee at two long meetings. Although no vote was taken, it was decided to submit the opposing views to the next meeting of the Council for Social Democracy at Bath on Sunday, January 26.

Dr David Owen, the party leader, who presided at both meetings, is said to be uncommitted on the issue. The case for abolition of the licence fee and use of advertising revenue to support some BBC services will be put to the conference by Mr Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye.

His resolution will say that the licence fee is no longer a fair or acceptable method of financing the BBC and that the method is not as independent of government as has been claimed.

To replace the licence fee, the resolution will call for advertising for some services, coupled with a five-yearly government grant fixed after advice of an independent broadcasting audit commission.

The opposing point of view will be put by Mr Roger Liddle, leader of the SDP group on Lambeth Borough Council, London. He will criticize the appointment of the Peacock committee on broadcasting as an attempt to rush fundamental reform without proper consideration of their effects.

His resolution if passed would commit the council to opposing introduction of advertising on any national network of BBC television or radio and call for retention of the licence fee to give the BBC a clear independent source of finance.

Unionists fall out over £100 banner

A dispute broke out yesterday between the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman John Carson, an Official Unionist and his party colleague and group leader, Councillor Alfred Redpath, over who should foot the bill for a huge banner to be draped across the front of the city hall.

The banner, proclaiming Belfast Says No, is expected to be in place this afternoon before participants of an 80-mile five-day protest march from Londonderry against the Hillsborough agreement reach their destination, the headquarters of the new Anglo-Irish secretariat, four miles beyond the city at Maryfield.

Official Unionist Party and Democratic Unionist members of the council secured a 25-14 vote to hoist the banner indefinitely when the council met on Thursday night against the opposition of the Social Democratic and Labour party and Alliance party members and the abstention of the two Sinn Fein councillors. They also voted to suspend all council business for a third month in succession.

Mr Redpath believes the ratepayers should bear the cost of the banner of an estimated £100 and argues that it reflects the majority view of the city. His argument is rejected by those who voted for it, himself included, should meet the bill. He enjoys the support of the town clerk who has said that it is likely to be ruled an inadmissible charge against the ratepayers.

Sir John Hermon, the RUC chief constable, who led police and Army mounties at the funeral yesterday of the first of two victims of the Provisional IRA bomb in Armagh in the first minutes of the year, heard a strong plea for the Government to provide better security.

"Don't tell us everything possible is being done. We do not believe this to be true," the Rev Reginald Twaddell said at the funeral of Constable James "Drew" McCandles at Portadown in Co Armagh.

Moves to support BBC men

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Senior BBC journalists moved to support their two colleagues suspended over the Rough Justice programme yesterday as Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC TV, told the men in a letter the reasons for the disciplinary action.

Senior journalists within the BBC said that both men, punished for using "unjustifiable threats" to obtain an interview for a programme that led to the freeing from jail of an innocent man, would be welcome to work for programmes throughout the BBC.

Senior BBC executives had wanted to dismiss the men after complaints in the Court of Appeal by Lord Lane that they had embarked upon an "investigation by means of threats". But, after investigations on their behalf by a wide range of BBC officials and outside parties, both were suspended without pay for three months, barred from investigative journalism for two years, and issued with final warnings.

In the letter to the two men, Mr Cotton clears them of an allegation which threatened to expose a witness as a lesbian in order to obtain an interview. But he says that the transcripts provided by both men gave a very clear indication that, instead of approaching the witness as inquiring journalists, they had a fixed idea of the truth which they then set out to prove.

Mr Cotton writes: "I find that your dealings with Miss Fitzpatrick showed serious error of judgement, that you overstepped the boundaries of legitimate investigative journalism and that you strayed into unacceptable and threatening behaviour."

The BBC says that the suspensions will not affect the televising of the next series of Rough Justice which is due on the air next year.

Text of Heseltine letter on Westland

The following is the text of a letter from Mr Michael Heseltine in reply to one from Mr David Horne, of Lloyds Merchant Bank.

Dear Mr Horne, Thank you for your letter of today's date about HMG's procurement plans for military helicopters. The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. Is there a requirement for a Blackhawk helicopter in the MOD forward programme? As I have already explained publicly the Ministry of Defence has had under consideration a Staff Target (AST 404) for a Light Support Helicopter which it was originally envisaged might have an in-service date of about 1990. There were three main contenders which it was assessed could meet this target: the W30-404 (Westland plc), the Super Puma (Aerospace) and the Black Hawk (Short Brothers Ltd in association with Sikorsky). It was announced in March 1985 that the Army was reviewing its requirements and that the Staff Target was in being.

There is in any case no provision in the Defence Budget to procure helicopters of this type by the assumed in-service date. To find funds for such a purchase from within the presently planned Defence Budget would involve removing items of higher military priority which are not prepared to do. The Government therefore has no intention of procuring the Black Hawk helicopter, whether offered by Short Brothers Ltd in association with Sikorsky or by Westland plc in association with Sikorsky.

2. Does the Ministry of Defence have any knowledge of a collaborative helicopter type being exported by Westland plc when that helicopter was not also part of the inventory of the British Services? I am advised that there has been no such export.

3. Further to the Prime Minister's letter of January 1 to Sir John Cuckney of Westland plc.

John Cuckney, what are the projects which HMG have indications from European governments and companies may be lost to Westland if the United Technologies/Fiat proposals are accepted?

There are three future helicopters intended to form the core of the fleet of the British Armed Services in the longer term all of which are planned to be produced collaboratively. At the battlefield helicopter level Britain has been intending to proceed with a feasibility study with Italy which, in the event of Westland proceeding with a link with the British/European consortium, would not be subsumed in a five nation collaborative project (United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and The Netherlands) on which Defence Ministers have agreed to instruct their staff to produce detailed proposals. In the 8-9 tonne class feasibility studies have commenced of a helicopter known as NH 90 under a Memorandum of Understanding involving the same five countries. Westland are currently participating in the feasibility study. In the 13 tonne class a bilateral programme has been established between the United Kingdom (Westland plc) and Italy (Agusta) for the EH 101 helicopter. Full development was launched in 1984 and initial production versions are planned to be available by about 1990. There are indications available to HMG from both the other Governments concerned that a Westland link with Sikorsky/Fiat would be incompatible with participation by that company on behalf of the United Kingdom in the collaborative battlefield helicopter and NH 90 projects. There have been separate indications from Agusta that if the Westland deal with Sikorsky went through Agusta would have to seek other partners.

I am copying this letter to Sir John Cuckney of Westland plc.

Money rolls in for rebel councillors

Liverpool Labour councillors are confident of raising sufficient funds to pay for lawyers to defend their High Court action against surcharge orders later this month.

It is expected that legal costs will amount to £130,000. At one stage there was such a poor response to the appeal for funds that there was speculation that the 48 councillors would have to give up their action. The appeal organizers say they have been "overwhelmed" with offers of support, mainly from trade union branches, but also from the public. Already £26,500 has been paid to the lawyers to enable preparatory work to take place. The executive council of the Transport and General Workers' Union has agreed to stand as guarantor for the outstanding funds.

The union's general secretary, Mr Ron Todd, said yesterday that Liverpool councillors had written asking for help. "We took the decision to act as guarantor but on the money being available and that it was just a problem of cashflow." The councillors are appealing against the decision of the district auditor to issue surcharge orders in respect of losses totalling £106,000 as a result of their failure to set a rate in June last year. The case is due to be heard on January 13. If they lose, the councillors will be disqualified from office and many will face bankruptcy if they have to pay their share of the costs. Mr John Kennedy, the fund raising co-ordinator, said that £30,000 in cash had been received and a further £68,000 had been promised. Donations from the public were arriving in the post at the rate of £1,000 a day, with much of the cash coming from local union branches. Mr Kennedy said £3,000 had been given by the Labour Party nationally and several unions had promised financial support.

Steelmen start march to London

By Ronald Fairfax

Scottish steelworkers started out yesterday on a 450-mile "save Gartosh" march to London. The mobile demonstration in support of the Lanarkshire steel plant, which is to close in three months with the loss of 700 jobs, began at the gates.

The steelmen plan to spend 11 days walking in relays to London in nine-man teams. They have invited prominent figures in Scottish life to join them on the way.

When they arrive they plan to lobby MPs and to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister to ask her to intervene in the decision by the British Steel Corporation to shut the plant.

Two mobile homes will support the march, which will head south to Consett and Corby where steel communities have already felt the effect of mass closures.

Mrs Williams seeks Tory-held seat

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, is to seek nomination as the Alliance candidate for Cambridge City, the seat held by the Conservatives in 1983 with a majority of about 6,000, (John Windsor writes).

Mrs Williams will probably compete with eight others from the Liberals and Social Democrat parties for a place on the short list. The result of a postal ballot of all Liberal and SDP members in the constituency will be announced on February 4.

The closest competition for Mrs Williams is likely to come from Mr Chris Bradford, who was at one time the prospective Liberal candidate for the seat but gave way to an SDP candidate when the Alliance was formed before the last election. Today is the closing date for applications for the seat. Mrs Williams, who is at present in India, was first elected Labour MP for the old Hitchin seat in 1964. In 1974, after boundary changes, she remained as Labour MP for Stevenage and Hatfield, but lost the seat in 1979. She helped found the SDP and won Crosby for the Alliance at a by-election in 1981 but lost it back to the Conservatives at the last election.

Dustin Gee dies aged 43

The comedian Dustin Gee died in hospital yesterday, 48 hours after collapsing with a heart attack during a performance of the pantomime *Cinderella* in Southport, Merseyside. He was 43.

Thoresen dispute settled

The dispute that had halted Townsend Thoresen ferries from Dover since December 13 was settled yesterday when about 2,000 Dover-based seamen voted at a 70-minute meeting to accept an agreement setting up a new procedure including binding arbitration for dealing with most grievances and disputes. Normal services are expected to be resumed within 24 hours. The dispute began with disagreement over minimum levels and the enlargement of freight-carrying capacity on two large ships. The men staged a 72-hour strike, and the company responded by moving the ferries from Dover to Dunkirk, effectively imposing a lockout. The seamen then received letters from management demanding an end to "disruptive industrial action" before services to Calais, Boulogne and Zeebrugge were re-started. The National Union of Seamen said yesterday: "This is the first time we have had a binding agreement to deal with logical grievances and disputes which allows for independent arbitration."

Mosaic found

Work on a £20 million town centre redevelopment in Colchester, Essex, has halted to allow archaeologists to uncover a second century Roman mosaic.

Unions meet on Murdoch demand

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The main Fleet Street print unions have started a series of meetings which will culminate at the end of next week in a ballot by the biggest union, *Sogat '82*, on the call for possible industrial action by workers at the four national newspapers owned by News International, whose chairman is Mr Rupert Murdoch.

A joint meeting of the *Newspaper of the World* and *The Sunday Times* *Sogat '82* is due to hold its ballot on Friday, to seek authorization for industrial action.

yesterday heard reports of the breakdown of negotiations on the company's demand for a no-strike, legally binding agreement to cost-of-living indexation of future pay awards. The National Graphical Association and *Sogat '82* will hold meetings next week of members employed by News International, which also owns *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. *Sogat '82* is due to hold its ballot on Friday, to seek authorization for industrial action.

The campaign is aimed at winning a "jobs-for-life" guarantee for members at the four newspapers, with company agreement to cost-of-living indexation of future pay awards. But a left-wing coalition is pressing for more direct action involving joint industrial action by all chapters in newspapers in the Murdoch group in Britain, joint agreements which preserve the right to strike and the closed shop, and the establishment of committees to co-ordinate action.

The politics of unemployment: 5

Value of service sector jobs disputed

When a boutique in the Fargate shopping area of Sheffield advertised a single vacancy for a shop assistant, 500 applicants queued outside in the hope of securing the job. Last October when a new supervisor in Rotherham advertised 150 full- and part-time jobs, the local Jobcentre processed 3,000 applications. These stories are common in areas of high unemployment and are a bleak reminder of the willingness to work of most unemployed people. It is worth noting that the jobs were in retailing, one of the sectors from which the Government expects growth in employment between now and the general election.

Retail and distributive jobs increased by 2.7 per cent nationally between June 1984 and June 1985, although at nothing like the pace needed to reverse the massive decline of the industrial base once the price of cities like Sheffield. Ministers have been emphasizing increasingly the importance of service industries in producing the new jobs needed if unemployment is to show a significant fall before the election. The emphasis on the service industries helps to explain the Government's decision to put £8 million of pump-priming finance into tourism, on which a significant number of employees in hotels, catering and leisure sectors, and less directly in retailing and even public transport, are believed to depend.

According to ministerial estimates, between 1 million jobs and 1.5 million jobs depend directly or indirectly on tourism and it is potentially among the fastest growing areas of the economy. Hand in hand with the importance of the service sector goes the role, emphasized again and again in government statements, of small firms and self-employment. But there is real argument about how far growth in service industries has increased employment and how far it is a trend that should be fostered at the expense of manufacturing industry. A TUC analysis to go before next week's economic committee sharply questions whether the "recovery" in employment, yielding a net increase of about 440,000 in numbers in employment, is as significant as the Government would like to make out. It suggests that up to 40 per cent of the jobs may result from "second jobbing" by workers already in employment, that the majority of new jobs have been part-time, taken by women, and that at least some of the growth of self-employment has been the replacement simply of jobs previously held by employees, for example in construction. The TUC critique goes further. Union leaders will press their case for more direct assistance to the manufacturing sector with publication of its pre-Budget submission to the Chancellor. A part of an expansionist reconstruction programme costing more than £7.5 billion over five years, it suggests in the first year £900 million to help manufacturing through capital allowances, an investment acceleration scheme, expansion of regional aid and a boost for exports through improved credit.

Another course has been put forward by Mr Gavyn Davies, a leading City economist, in the latest Employment Institute bulletin. He maintains that expansionist policies could make a real impact on unemployment, without pushing up inflation, if they were specifically targeted at sections least likely to contribute to the upwards wage spiral, such as the long-term unemployed and those in the deprived regions. Mr Davies takes the line that a minimum of 250,000 extra places on the Community Programme, which the Government is considering expanding

at a cost of £600 million, should be "supplied with a £100 a week subsidy to private employers for every additional long-term unemployed person it takes into a permanent job."

He argues that, allowing for tax benefits, the overall Public Sector Borrowing Requirement could be about £1 billion but employment would be raised by 500,000. Net spending of £1 billion on infrastructure improvements, advocated by the TUC, could also create 200,000 extra jobs.

JOBS: GAINS AND LOSSES

Sector	Number of jobs (Jan '84 to Jan '85)	% change
Services	+78,000	+4.3
Manufacturing	-107,000	-2.7
Health, safety	+41,000	+1.8
Other servs (publ)	+84,000	+4.1
Welfare, distrib	+28,000	+2.8
Medical, other (priv)	+22,000	+1.7
Transport	-18,000	-2.2
Manufacturing	-18,000	-2.2
Other servs (priv)	+5,000	+0.5
Health, safety	+5,000	+0.5
Medical, other (priv)	+2,000	+0.2
Transport	-2,000	-0.2
Manufacturing	-2,000	-0.2
Other servs (priv)	-2,000	-0.2
Health, safety	-2,000	-0.2
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Manufacturing	-2,000	-0.2
Other servs (priv)	-2,000	-0.2
Health, safety	-2,000	-0.2
Medical, other (priv)		

Cashier got compensation after helping to raid own bank, court is told

A bank cashier helped to mastermind a hold-up at her own bank, then picked up a cash award for her ordeal, St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mrs Annette White, aged 31, was pushed, bound and gagged and left in the bank's strong room during the £64,000 robbery last May.

But it was all a charade. Afterwards she put on such a convincing act as a robbery victim that her employers awarded her £1,750 compensation.

Mr Robert Marshall-Andrews, for the prosecution, said Mrs White had provided the two robbers with the layout of the bank, given them details of the movement of her colleagues, and told them where to find the money.

Mrs White, of Broad Stone Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, pleaded not guilty to robbery and a second charge of obtaining compensation by deception.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that the robbery at the Lloyds sub-branch at The Quadrant, St Albans, had been carried out by Derek Cracknell, aged 60, and Gillian Walker, aged 34. Both were well known to Mrs White

and the women had been friends since 1979.

"Annette White had provided them with substantial information about the bank. She was actually aware of the facts that the robbery was going to take place and she had provided information which had allowed the robbery to take place", he said.

The court was told that Cracknell and his daughter had tricked one of Mrs White's colleagues into opening the bank doors before the official opening time. They succeeded in taking place and she had provided information which had allowed the robbery to take place", he said.

The raiders knew that the bank manager would be away from the building at the time of the robbery. Mrs White had also told them that her bank colleague, Mr Ian Herbert, was "weedy" and would give them no trouble.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that in the days leading up to the robbery, Mrs White had ordered extra money to be placed in the safe so that the bandits would collect a larger sum than would normally be there.

"The crown says she was

stocking the bank up because this robbery was going to take place and she knew it", he said.

The jury was told that the money was left in the hands of a "minder", who hid the haul in his loft. When the gang, including Mrs White, was arrested last June police recovered just over half the money that had been stolen.

A total of £10,000 was found in a drawer at Mrs White's home. She had told police of plans for her and Walker to purchase a video shop in Peterborough. More sums of money were found with Cracknell and his daughter.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that Mrs White had been paid £1,750 by Lloyds bank, who had assumed she was the innocent victim of a "terrifying" robbery.

Walker, of Peterborough, who is serving a four-year jail term for her part in the robbery, told the jury that Mrs White had often joked about robbing the bank where she worked. She said Mrs White had handed her plans to the bank and told her what was the best time she and her father should strike. Cracknell is also serving four years for the robbery.

The case continues on Monday.



Medal winners in the Fifty-fifth Model Engineer Exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday. The Bugatti Type 51 (above) made by Mr L. Sellors, of Oxford, won a gold medal. The Mary Rosa, being inspected by Ian Clarke (left), and Ian Baker, won a silver medal for Peter Moran of Acklington Prison. (Photographs: Bill Warhurst).



88m days lost to arthritis

Arthritis accounts for the loss of 88 million working days in Britain each year, far more than the losses caused by strikes (our Science Correspondent writes).

The crippling disease costs more than £3 billion a year in lost wages, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said yesterday.

The North-east of England is the worst affected region, losing more than nine million working days at a cost of more than £285 million.

The council's report, published to mark its fiftieth anniversary, said: "Despite these figures there is more hope for people with arthritis than there was 50 years ago."

A drug to protect people from arthritis could be available within the next five to 10 years through advances in genetic engineering.

Professor Ravinder Maini, chairman of the council's research committee, is investigating potential therapies at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, where he is professor of immunology and rheumatic diseases.

Home computer firm to shed 250 jobs and end UK output

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The American home computer company, Commodore International has shut its production line in Corby, Northamptonshire, making 250 people redundant but keeping 170 people for its marketing and service operation in the United Kingdom.

The company's decision comes a year after the group announced 100 redundancies at Corby after poor sales the previous Christmas.

Commodore claims that it is too early to determine the sales success of its machines this Christmas but that the job losses are due to the company rationalizing its manufacturing outlets worldwide. Corby is an assembly plant and does not fit into its new strategy, the company claims.

Commodore, whose Commodore 64 is among the most popular home computers in Britain, will concentrate its production in four plants: West Germany, Hong Kong and two in the United States. The bulk of the Corby assembly goes to West Germany.

According to Mr Thomas Rattigan, Commodore's president: "The corporate management of Commodore, including our UK general manager, have shared in this decision. Commodore's major priority is to meet the competitive challenge of the next two or three years, and to do this the company is going to be increasingly dependent upon fewer and higher technology plants. Corby, being essentially an assembly plant, does not easily fit into this strategy."

Commodore has run down the manufacturing workforce at Corby during the past year. After last January's staff reductions the workforce totalled 600 and was trimmed again to 420 by the end of last year.

Sales during the last 12 months have been particularly poor in the home and personal computer market and especially for Commodore International. The company declared losses in September for the fourth quarter ending in June of \$124 million, (£86 million) compared with a profit of \$33 million for the same period in the previous year. Losses for the financial year were \$113.9 million against a \$143.8 million profit the year before.

Commodore's problems are not unique. In the UK after a poor 1984 Christmas sales retailers were left with high stocks due to over optimistic sales forecasts. A price war ensued and Sinclair, Acorn and then Commodore slashed prices in the new year. The price of the Sinclair Spectrum was reduced by £50 to £130. Acorn, the manufacturer of the BBC Microcomputer and the Electron, cut the price of the Electron by £70 to match Sinclair. Commodore followed suit.

Within weeks Acorn was struggling and it was forced to suspend its shares on the Unlisted Securities Market.

By May Sinclair was also in deep financial trouble. Its principal creditors, Thorn EMI, Times and AB Electronics, all manufacturers of Sinclair products, and the company's bankers Citibank and Barclays were owed a total of about £15 million and had to extend the computer group's credit.

Smiths Crisp are to close their not processing plant in Corby in two weeks with the loss of 140 jobs.

Water rate to rise by average 8%

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Water rates in most of England and Wales will rise by an average of 8 per cent in the spring, according to the latest government forecast, based on talks with the 10 water authorities.

It will be the second successive year that millions of householders face water charges increases higher than the cost of living. But ministers do not expect any water authority to raise charges by more than 10 per cent, although some feared last year that charges might have to go up by as much as 13 per cent.

The rises will mean that most householders will pay less than 30p a day still for water supplies and sewerage services. The highest average charge last year was £105.98 a year, or 29p a day, in the Anglian area. The lowest was £76.16 a year, or 21p a day, in the Severn Trent region, which includes Birmingham, a much of the Midlands.

The large increases will be caused by the Government's insistence again on accelerated repayment of water authority debts and on shorter-term financing of new equipment.

Demand for water continues to creep upwards. Total water supplies in England and Wales rose by more than half between 1960 and 1984 to reach 16.5 billion litres a day.

Less than a tenth of the purified water that enters households is drunk. The latest estimates from the Water Authorities' Associations show that the main single use of water is to flush lavatories. More than a third of the water used is for making tea.

Food poison source may never be traced

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists investigating the salmonella infection at the Farley food factory in Kendal, Cumbria, are becoming increasingly concerned that the source of the outbreak may never be found.

Failure to identify precisely the circumstances leading to the contamination of milk products will leave troubling questions unanswered in spite of improved safety procedures likely to be introduced by the company as a result of the incident.

Since November, 43 cases of food poisoning, involving 31 babies under a year old, have been linked to the factory. A baby in Manchester has died.

Circumstantial evidence had implicated a case of *Salmonella enteritidis* - a rare strain of the bacterium found in the factory - with a dairy cow in the county.

That animal was found to have the infection last April. A four-year-old child in the farmer's family also showed symptoms, but although the family drank unpasteurized milk from the herd, no trace of the bacterium was found in the milk when it was tested by veterinary inspectors.

Milk from that herd is taken into the Farley plant in a raw form, but is then subjected to heat treatment much more intense than the norm for pasteurization.

The milk is treated for up to 25 times as long, at temperatures about 17 per cent higher.

Milk from the apparently contaminated herd was excluded from the factory after the April tests, and when Ministry of Agriculture inspectors again tested the herd before Christmas, they found no signs of it.

Scientists have now almost completely ruled out the cattle connection and suspect that the infection of the baby food took place after the milk had been heat treated, evaporated, reduced to powder and dried, but before it was packed into containers.

Earlier this week, traces of the bacterium were found in the factory's cleaning system. Investigators now have to consider who, or what, was the carrier of the infection.

All 320 staff at the factory are submitting stool samples for analysis, for the second time. Those tests have so far shown no evidence of salmonella, and a third round of samples is now likely to be analysed.

"We may never know the answer but we sincerely hope we will find it," Mr Brian Hales, chief environmental health officer for the area, said yesterday.

"It is the most mysterious case of food poisoning on a national scale that I have known in 30 years in this type of work."

'Political training' for teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers should be trained to teach "political competence" so that children grow up to be good citizens, according to Ian Lister, professor of education at York University.

The job of political education in schools is threefold, he maintains: to promote an ideal of common citizenship; to revive patriotic loyalty and to develop wider loyalties, with some concern for European affairs and for global issues, and to encourage tolerance, even celebration, of difference and diversity.

Addressing the North of England education conference in Huddersfield yesterday, Professor Lister said schools faced a crisis. They were out of alignment with the changing world of work, with our political culture, and with community life. A new relationship was needed between education and political, economic and community leaders.

Schools must promote "a positive pluralism" so that cultures and races were respected. "Teachers, or others, who present only one-sided accounts of controversial questions, or who claim 'there is no alternative', are rightly suspect", he said.

New teachers were asked to promote unity through diversity, he said. This was not easy. "After the fate of the Rampton committee (into the education of ethnic minorities) and after the Honeyford affair we cannot underestimate the sensitive nature of the whole area."

The crisis in education was related to the radical change in work which was coming with the decline of industrialism, he said. Nowadays children needed to develop and practise their skills rather than regurgitate facts they needed to be assessed on whether they could do things rather than whether they knew things.

Although Professor Lister believed that teacher training was ripe for review, he did not like what the Government was doing. Under the new system, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, can withhold approval of a teacher training course if it does not meet his criteria.

Those criteria state that would-be primary school teachers should spend more than 100 hours in studying mathematics teaching and another 100 hours studying language teaching. Aspiring secondary school teachers should have done a degree which included at least two years on the subject they wanted to teach.

"This has the interesting implication that someone who has studied PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at Oxford is not qualified to teach any subject, as a main subject, in a secondary school."

Professor John Tomlinson, director of the University of Warwick's Institute of Education, told the conference that new ways were needed of assessing children in place of the current examination system, which meant that most children left school having failed and only a proportion succeeded.

£750 fine in pirate video case

A video shop manager was fined £750 after pleading guilty to possessing pirate videos under the Video Recordings Act 1984, at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Five copies of *Telephone*, a popular Indian film, were found at the V & A Video Centre, North Finchley, north London, when the police raided the shop on October 15 last year. Dhanji Varsani, of Churchfield Ave, pleaded guilty.

'Overfed' baby died naturally

A baby who was treated for over-feeding died from cot death syndrome after being sent home from hospital, an inquest was told yesterday.

Gerald Fantini, aged 14 weeks, was being fed 10oz of powdered milk every two hours, instead of 6oz to 7oz every three to four hours, when he was admitted to King's College Hospital, south London, suffering from vomiting.

Dr Fiona Campbell, senior house officer, told the inquest at Southwark that the child was treated for over-feeding and the brand of the powdered milk changed before he was sent home. The next day he died.

Recording that he died from natural causes, Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said: "The parents have to be shown it is not through their fault that this child died."

Insurance group goes into estate agency

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest life insurance company, enters the estate agency market this week with the formal launch of Prudential Property Services in the East Anglia area.

In addition to home sales, surveys, mortgages and insurance, PPS will offer a "chain-breaking service" designed to end the frustrations often suffered by buyers waiting to sell their own homes.

The new company will guarantee the sale of a property at a price based on an independent valuation, in order to allow the buyer to break out of the chain that often exists.

The scheme is intended to break even. Mr Graham Clay, managing director, said that although they did not expect a heavy demand, "it will provide peace of mind for those of our clients who get caught up in a chain of home sales."

The Prudential's entry into estate agency comes after its acquisition of the east Anglian firm of Ekins Dilley and Handley, with 12 offices. In a statement, the company said it regarded the PPS launch as a natural extension to the range of insurance and other financial services it provided.

Mr Tony Freeman, new chairman of PPS, said when the project was first announced last June, that if it was a success, Prudential would embark on a big expansion in the estate agency field.

Drinking spree led to road death

A Smithfield porter's six-hour drinking spree led to the death of a pensioner in a "horror" road crash, the Central Criminal Court, the Recorder, Mr Audry Myerson, QC, said Longford had consumed at least seven pints of lager before the noon crash at a busy junction in London Road, Mitcham, on May 2 last year.

Mr Lindsay Burn for the prosecution, said Longford had driven past a red traffic light at a speed estimated by witnesses at between 30mph and 50mph. He hit another car then struck Mr Shaw.

Alleged rape victim wins court order

A lawyer who claims she was raped more than three years ago yesterday won a court order against her alleged attacker.

Miss Beverley Hayles, aged 32, was granted an interim injunction at Birmingham County Court restraining Keith Desmond Burgher, aged 28, from "assaulting, molesting or interfering" with her. The order is effective until January 17.

Miss Hayles, who asked that her address be withheld, has claimed damages for alleged rape although police have not charged Mr Burgher with such an offence.

He arrived at court handcuffed to an officer from Winsor Green Prison, where he is on remand in connection with an unrelated alleged offence. He was not legally represented and when Judge Gosling asked him if he admitted the offence of rape, much of his reply was unclear.

But he claimed he had a female witness who could allege that Miss Hayles went to his house "to have a bit of going on".

Mr Stephen Jonas, for Miss Hayles, told the court: "What is alleged here is a particularly savage assault and rape on the plaintiff, and her false imprisonment. The alleged incident took place over three years ago. She had not known Mr Burgher, of no fixed address."

Mr Jonas said he believed the case was the first of its kind.

British plea to commute death penalty

The British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has asked the Malaysian government to commute the death sentence imposed on a British-born welder for drug smuggling.

The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, said yesterday the move was more than welcome, after criticism that the Government was not taking sufficient action.

Kevin Barlow, aged 28, has dual Australian-British citizenship.

A quarter of a century before Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative government led by Sir Anthony Eden considered forcing trade unions to hold secret ballots before taking strike action. A secret ballot memorandum prepared by Sir Walter Monckton, the Minister of Labour, discusses how to combat "a serious deterioration in industrial relations".

The first suggestion is to impose a legal requirement of a secret ballot before strike action. "To protect the individual member from pressure and to encourage a high proportion of the membership to vote, it might be preferable in some cases for the ballot to be conducted by post, and in national disputes of major importance it might be desirable for the results to be published for the information of the public", Sir Walter said.

A file of Eden's personal correspondence now available shows that he was lobbied by Lord Nuffield, founder of the Morris motor car company. Nuffield came privately to 10 Downing Street and told Eden that after a lifetime in the car industry he believed a secret ballot alone could solve industrial problems.

He went to warn Eden that the Electrical Trades Union, forerunner of the EITPU of today, was in a "dangerous situation, being communist-led". It was a prime example, Nuffield said, of a union which would be much better if its officials were elected by secret ballot.

Within five years the ETU was wracked by allegations of ballot rigging and a fierce internal battle which brought the present Lord Chappell to power. But Eden was unconvinced, and took Monckton's conciliatory line.

Monckton, in a memorandum, said: "It is essential that any government initiative in the field of industrial relations should carry the greatest possible measure of TUC approval and concurrence."

The minister believed that secret ballots would not end unofficial action, which was then rife in the docks and transport industries. He hoped Nuffield came privately to 10 Downing Street and told Eden that after a lifetime in the car industry he believed a secret

TV series studies couple's courtship and marriage

A couple from South Wales are the subject of a six-part television study into courtship, marriage and beyond. The first part of the experiment, by the television producer Desmond Wilcox, is to be shown on Wednesday on BBC1.

The cameras follow Marc, an hotel manager, aged 28, and Karen, aged 21, a psychiatric nurse, from their engagement through their wedding to their first year of marriage.

The first episode shows Marc, widely regarded as "one of the boys", promising to change his way of life after marriage to Karen whom he met at a dance in Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan. Karen talks about sex and her parents' attitude towards her and Marc, although she plans a white car wedding.

They are followed on their honeymoon in Copenhagen through financial worries and problems with their love life.

Mr Wilcox said the film crew never felt they were being overly intrusive. "We simply filmed them as they were. There was no performance for the cameras", he said at the film's launch.

The series, made by BBC Scotland, is the first time such a first-hand study of the joys and pitfalls of married life has been attempted and Mr Wilcox admits it was a daunting task. "We filmed them over a period of about a year roughly every two weeks."

"They told us everything that was likely to happen and everything you see is completely spontaneous."

Marc confessed that the series made him learn a lot about Karen. "By watching it we realized things about each other we never knew. In a way I think it has made us all the more close."

Karen, who qualified as a nurse last month, said the influence of the cameras and questioning took a lot of getting used to. "But after a while we just got on with the way we would have behaved anyway. There were certain things we might not have said because we were being filmed, but otherwise it was completely natural."

The couple, who live in Cardiff, married in June, 1984. They were chosen from 3,000 hopefuls for the series after replying to press advertisements four months before their wedding. Mr Wilcox said they had been chosen because they were young, articulate and seemed ideal.

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Eden rejected idea of union strike ballots

In the last of his surveys of Cabinet documents for 1955 released this week at the Public Records Office, DAVID WALKER finds that Sir Anthony Eden considered policies later adopted by Mrs Thatcher on trade unions, vocational education and the building of an official convention centre opposite Westminster Abbey.

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Concern over Labour's all-in schools policy

In a memorandum dated April 20 1955, Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, warned his colleagues that Labour's policy of making all secondary schools into comprehensive schools would succeed, unless the Tories could come up with some answer to what he called widespread resentment on the part of parents whose children failed the 11-plus examination.

Describing the alternatives, he said: "Feelings about the 11 plus force a move towards selection for nobody or selection for all. Selection for nobody means comprehensive schools with grammar schools abolished and parents' choice practically ruled out."

"Selection for all means developing in each secondary school some special attraction and giving parents the widest possible choice."

The year was one of continuing tension between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands and Argentine claims on Antarctica. In secret appreciation, the British military attaché in Buenos Aires, Brigadier C D T Wynn-Pope, said he thought that the Argentine military was the best in South

Convention centre proposed

The Cabinet spent many hours in 1955 worrying about the future of the site of the former Westminster Hospital on the plot of land bounded by Great George Street, Storey's Gate and Broad Sanctuary.

An ambitious plan was hatched to buy and demolish the Middlesex Guildhall, headquarters of the Royal Institution and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The Treasury was not too happy with the scheme. An alternative use for the site was mooted: building a huge convention centre to house events such as the General Assembly of the United Nations. Thirty years later the convention centre is nearing completion.

whether these could be reproduced in an armed conflict with Great Britain over the Falkland Islands.

"Nevertheless the national spirit and a belief in the righteousness of their cause could quite possibly make any army units concerned a force to be reckoned with

Conflict on Falklands 'very unlikely'

America, with the possible exception of the Brazilian, although Argentines had not been involved in a war since 1872.

"It would appear that the army can be kept up to produce good results by European standards on special occasions, but it is doubtful

Tehran pledge to support Gadaffi raises tension closer to breaking point

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

As a US naval task force led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea left Naples yesterday for an undisclosed destination in the Mediterranean, Iran announced that it would respond to any American attack on Libya and give its "unwavering support" to Colonel Gadaffi's regime in the event of "foreign invasion".

The Israeli air force is still claiming about Syria's anti-aircraft missile deployment inside its frontier with Lebanon, while Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon has provoked new attacks on its Lebanese militia allies by the growing confrontation.

In Tripoli, the Libyan capital, the Government-controlled radio claimed that large anti-American demonstrations in the towns and cities throughout the country had promised to defend a Libya against US or Israeli attack.

With Israel now threatening to retaliate for rocket attacks on northern Galilee from southern Lebanon as well as for the massacres by Palestinian gunmen at Rome and Vienna airports, the Middle East is now embroiled in one of those all-too-familiar periods of intense political anxiety and sabre-rattling that usually precedes military action.

PLO claims shot driver was Mossad agent

Beirut (AFP) - Force 17, a PLO group, claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder on Thursday of a taxi driver near Tel Aviv, and claimed that he was an agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

An anonymous telephone caller to a news agency here said that a commando named after Ali Zeibak, one of 70 victims of the October 1 Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis, had killed the taxi driver.

out terrorism as the motive (David Bernstein reports from Jerusalem). The driver, Mr. Yacov Hashvili, from Ramle, south-east of Tel Aviv, had been shot in the head at close range.

Police say they are considering all possibilities, including terrorism. They note that Mr. Hashvili was not known to them, and had no criminal record.

This was the second recent attack on a Jewish taxi, and follows the stabbing of a driver in Jerusalem last week.

US considers military strike

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration, furious at Colonel Gadaffi's support for international terrorism, is reviewing possibilities for a military strike against Libya, while urging West European allies to follow the US lead in imposing political and economic sanctions.

The aircraft carrier Coral Sea has sailed from Naples, and US forces in the central Mediterranean are being strengthened. Options for military retaliation, either in support or independent of any Israeli action, are being kept open, and the Pentagon has drawn up a contingency list of bombing targets.

The Administration is also considering offering a reward for the capture of Abu Nidal, the terrorist leader thought to be sheltering in Libya.

State Department officials are meanwhile expected to seek urgent meetings to persuade allied leaders to cut all trade and economic links with Libya in a concerted effort to cripple the country's economy.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday called on trading partners around the world to do more,

mainly in restricting oil imports from Libya.

The Administration has used ominous language in denouncing the Libyan leader. "We particularly abhor Gadaffi's making excuses for the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent men, women and children, and rejecting the fact that these were pure acts of terrorism," the State Department spokesman said. President Reagan angrily denounced "felas who think it's all right to shoot 11-year-old girls".

Despite nationwide anger and frustration at the repeated killing of Americans by terrorists, the Administration is cautious about its military options, refusing to discuss contingency plans. Though publicly scolding to reply to Colonel Gadaffi's threat against Americans in Libya, it is well aware of the danger to the 1,500 \$860million (£600million) in US citizens there, whom it has urged repeatedly to leave.

Washington is also anxious that any military strike should not so arouse the Arab world that it endangers the peace process and weakens further the position of Arab moderates such as King Hussein of Jordan.



Lord Carrington (left) with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, on the steps of Madrid's Moncloa Palace yesterday. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, is in the centre.

Nato may bend rules for Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's withdrawal would mean "a very grave weakening" of the Atlantic alliance, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, said here yesterday. But he linked this with a clear indication that the other Nato governments might be agreeable to Spain achieving its own special degree of participation in Western defence.

Lord Carrington made his audience laugh when he told a joint press conference with Señor González, the Spanish Prime Minister, that as he was "in a sense, the chief of Nato, I naturally prefer the menu but I understand if there are those who prefer to eat à la carte".

Spanish membership of Nato à la carte is the phrase coined here to cover Madrid's desire of not intergrating fully into Nato's command structure, and

Tax men catch up with Paris madame

Paris (Reuter) - Fernando Grubet, better known as the notorious Madame Claude who once operated France's biggest luxury call-girl network, is under arrest on charges of owing 11 million francs (£1 million) in back taxes, officials said yesterday.

The 62-year-old "madame", who ran the most exclusive and expensive call-girl service in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s, was arrested on New Year's Eve in a small country house in the south-western village of Cagnac.

Already sentenced several times on tax and procuring charges, Madame Claude fled to the US in 1977 but is believed to have returned shortly before her arrest, planning to see in the New Year with Françoise Sagan, the novelist and her village neighbour.

Hostages in jail rising freed

New York - The prison rebellion in West Virginia, in which three prisoners were stabbed to death, ended yesterday with the release of the remaining seven hostages and talks on the inmates' grievances (Trevor Fishlock writes).

The deal between the prisoners' leaders and the authorities ended the 42-hour rebellion in which about 300 men seized the prison and took 16 prison staff as hostages. The officials promised no reprisals but insisted on taking action against those responsible for the killings.

Mission five die in ambush

Harare (AP) - Unia rebels ambushed and killed five Angolans from the Caluquembé mission hospital staffed by Canadians in the south-west Huila province on New Year's Eve, a Canadian diplomat, Mr James Fox, reported.

Two Brazilian nursing sisters with the party were believed to have been abducted.

18 die in Peru guerrilla attack

Lima (AP) - Sixteen peasants and two rebels were killed when Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas attacked the Andean village of Agua Blanca, in Huánuco department, on New Year's Day, according to a military communiqué.

The guerrillas were killed by members of a civil defence patrol formed by villagers under military guidance.

Workers held in Fossey inquiry

Kigali, Rwanda (Reuter) - Police have detained several dozen workers from a remote research station formerly run by the American gorilla expert, Dian Fossey, aged 53, who was murdered last month, a US Embassy official said.

Friends in Nairobi speculated that Ms Fossey might have been killed by poachers, but the embassy official said police had not confirmed this.

Poachers shot

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwean game rangers this week shot dead four poachers in the Zambezi valley where black rhino herds are threatened with extinction. The poachers, armed with high velocity rifles, fired back before being killed.

Dhaka protest

Dhaka (Reuter) - About 25,000 striking Government doctors, engineers and agriculturalists marched through the Bangladesh capital in protest at the arrest of seven colleagues.

Australians drink most in English-speaking world

Sydney (AFP) - Australians are the most frequent drinkers of alcohol in the English-speaking world, according to a survey to be published in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, which also expressed concern over drinking by children.

It said Australia ranked 12th in the world overall for per capita alcohol consumption, and that there had been a significant increase in drinking by women in recent years.

Sri Lanka checks tea exports for poison

Colombo (Reuter) - Sri Lanka is checking all tea exports after the British and US embassies received warnings that arsenic had been put in consignments, authorities sources said here yesterday.

The Sri Lanka Government and Sri Lanka Tea Board strongly denied that Tamil guerrillas had mixed arsenic powder in a consignment of tea for export but confirmed that "precautions" were being taken.

"There is nothing new in this type of threat. There have been similar ones earlier and necessary precautions were taken then. Similar precautions are being taken now," a Tea Board spokesman said.

Sour note on fishing in EEC share-out

From Richard Owen Brussels

After a political re-division of the spoils of EEC membership - inevitably dubbed the "night of the long knives" at the Berlaymont EEC headquarters - a new Commission was unveiled yesterday giving Spain and Portugal control of social affairs, financial instruments and fisheries.

The allocation of the fishing portfolio to Portugal caused immediate disension between the two new members, with some Spanish officials complaining that Madrid and Lisbon have in the past come to blows over fishing rights. But this sour note was lost in the general air of harmony and optimism over enlargement, coupled with relief that fishing had not gone to Spain, which has the most powerful fishing fleet in the Community.

Neither of the two Spanish commissioners, Señor Manuel Marin and Señor Abel Matutes, was given high-powered and high profile portfolios. The two British commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, successfully fought off attempts to reduce their range of responsibilities, with Mr Clinton Davis retaining both environment and transport despite rumours that the crucial transport portfolio would go to Madrid.

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The new Commission

- Jacques Delors, President (France);
- Lorenzo Natali, co-operation and development (Italy);
- Frans Andriessen, agriculture, forestry (The Netherlands);
- Lord Cockfield, internal market, customs union, taxation (Britain);
- Henning Christophersen, budget, personnel and administration (Denmark);
- Manuel Marin, social affairs, employment, education and training (Spain);
- Antonio Cardoso Cunha, Mediterranean policy and North-South relations (France);
- Alois Pfeiffer, economic affairs, regional policy, statistics (West Germany);
- Ignorice Varis, structural funds, consumer protection (Greece);
- Willy de Clerck, external relations and trade (Belgium);
- Nicolas Mosar, energy, Euratom (Luxembourg);
- Stanley Clinton Davis, environment, transport, nuclear safety (Britain);
- Carlo Ripa di Meana, institutional affairs, Citizens Europe, culture, tourism and information (Italy);
- Peter Sutherland, competition, relations with the European Parliament (Irish Republic);
- Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, fisheries (Portugal);
- Abel Matutes, credit, investment, financial instruments, small and medium-sized businesses (Spain);
- Karl Heinz Neuhaus, industrial affairs, information technology, research and science (West Germany).

Reagan flies in for Mexican summit

From John Carlin Mexicali, Mexico

Economic and financial measures to allay fears of social unrest in Mexico were expected to be high on the agenda as President Reagan arrived by helicopter in this border town for talks with President de la Madrid.

According to American officials, President Reagan will express support for the request Mexico has made to the international financial community for new loans this year totalling \$4 billion (£2.7 billion).

At least this amount will be needed, according to economists, if it is to continue making debt payments to the banks - most of them American - and sustain a system of subsidies deemed essential to prevent widespread labour unrest.

Washington has been increasingly alarmed during the past year at the spectacle of a Mexican government apparently losing both its economic grip and its political credibility, a state which was accelerated by brazen fraud in elections in July and the earthquake catastrophe in September.

Mexico, the third biggest trading partner of the US, was obliged this week to cut the price of its oil by 90 cents, to \$24 a barrel. The prospect of a price fall this year could prove disastrous for Mexico, the economy of which depends heavily on oil for export income



Safer birth for women over 35

From Trevor Fishlock New York

It has become safer for American women over 35 to have babies. The rate of deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth has halved in the past 10 years, a report published yesterday said.

Since more women over 35 are becoming mothers for the first time, many having postponed starting a family for career reasons, the report is encouraging.

Between 1974 and 1978 the mortality rate among older women was 47.5 per 100,000 live births. In 1982 it had fallen to 24.2 deaths. In 1974-78, 9.5 per cent of women over 35 having babies were having their first child. In 1982, the percentage was 14.7 per cent.

The death rate has declined for a number of reasons, including medical advances and a greater awareness of the dangers of drugs, smoking, alcohol and poor diet. Also, women are having fewer children, and fewer children lessen the risk. In the 1970s many women over 35 were having their fourth or fifth child. In the 1980s, they are having their first or second.

The fall in the death rate can also be attributed to the higher economic and social status of older women having children. In general, poorer people have higher mortality rates.

The report, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says "although older women will probably continue to be at higher risk of maternal death, recent trends should be reassuring to younger women considering postponement of pregnancy and to women 35 or older contemplating pregnancy."

Two Arabs charged in Belgium

From Richard Owen Brussels

Two suspected Arab terrorists who were arrested in Belgium on Monday were yesterday charged with forming a "criminal association" with the intention of attacking persons and property and remained in custody for a month.

But it is still not clear whether the two men, who arrived in Brussels the day after the airport massacres at Rome and Vienna, were connected with these attacks.



A farewell embrace for President Gemayel of Lebanon (right) from President Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday, after a round of inconclusive talks.

Readers take sides over divorce story

From Mary Lee Peking

A real-life family drama, centring on the issue of divorce, which unfolded in print in early December has drawn many letters in support of ending loveless marriages. The case involves a 50-year-old man, Mr Yang An, (a pseudonym) and his 39-year-old wife, Ms Zhou Jing (also a pseudonym).

Mr Yang sued for divorce in 1982 after a 13-year marriage in which she had entered into during the Cultural Revolution believing that they were "a good match politically". The *China Legal News* which first ran the story commented: "At that time, political background was the main consideration, even in marriage."

Today, according to the *Canton Daily*, the typical young woman looking for a husband insists on the "three highs" - a higher salary than hers, a high educational level and that he be more than 5ft 6in tall.

Ms Zhou raised strong objections to the divorce, which was granted a year later. The court's decision sent the wife into "hysterical paralysis". She threatened suicide but later agreed to the divorce on the condition that Mr Yang paid her 30,000 yuan (about £7,000).

Mr Yang was unable to raise that amount of money, and the court "had to withhold its verdict" which in turn sent the husband into despair. He also threatened to commit suicide.

The case has so far drawn more than 400 letters of comments from readers, *China Legal News* said. Many who supported the husband said Ms Zhou's demands were unjustifiable and that the court should not yield to her suicide threat. Sympathy for Mr Yang is also based on the fact that, Ms Zhou after the marriage, Mr Yang suffered a gynaecological disorder which ended their sex life and shattered their hopes of having a child.

Mr Zhang Yanyu, president of the Law Society, also wrote to the paper saying: "Divorce is not a bad thing for society and a couple who have lost their affection for each other and cannot tolerate living together."

Letters in support of the woman condemned Mr Yang for trying to divorce a sick wife who had no relatives to whom she could turn.

China Legal News said it published the case in detail to solicit readers' opinions on the legal and ethical issues involved.

A Peking district court official was quoted as saying that some people refused to divorce "simply because they want to take revenge on their marital partners". Others said that such refusals were due to difficulties of remarriage and consideration for the children. (The couple adopted a child in 1981).

Since 1981, when the marriage law was revised and allowed for "complete alienation of mutual affection" as grounds for divorce, the divorce rate in China has been steadily rising to around 500,000 in 1984. According to the magazine *Chinese Women* the record number of divorces in China occurred in 1983, when the communists introduced a marriage law breaking the "feudalist matrimonial relations rampant in old China. In those days, arranged marriages in which neither husband nor wife (usually a young girl) had a say in the choice of spouse were the norm.

The magazine said that such marriages still exist in the countryside due to dihard feudalistic ways.

An official in the Supreme People's Court, Ms Wen Huiyang, however, maintains that despite China's rising divorce rate, the institution of marriage remains extremely stable and that divorce is not as serious a social problem as in the Soviet Union and some Western countries.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom left of the page.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Police for r", "grip", "Heysel", "place", "Fren", and "The".

Police ban remembrance for rights activist in South African township

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South African police have banned a memorial service for Mrs Molly Blackman, the civil rights activist, due to be held today in the black township of Port Elizabeth.

Brigadier Ernest Schaefer, divisional commissioner of police, said he stopped the memorial under emergency regulations because he believed it could endanger public safety. Port Elizabeth has been one of the main flashpoints of township unrest.

Mrs Blackman was killed in a car crash last Saturday and 20,000 blacks from all over the Eastern Cape gathered for her funeral in Port Elizabeth on Thursday.

Mrs Di Bishop, another leading civil rights activist who was badly injured in the crash, said yesterday: "The only reason I can think of for the ban is that they find this kind of occasion a threat to the survival of apartheid".

Mrs Helen Suzman, the veteran Progressive Federal

Party MP, described the ban as a "confounded shame".

She said: "It demonstrates the Government's inability to tolerate what would be an enormous outpouring of regard for her sterling work among blacks".

Meanwhile Dr Wendy Orr, the young white South African doctor, who took the police to court over their assaults on blacks held under the state of emergency, has resigned from her post with the Cape Provincial Health Authority after receiving death threats over the telephone.

She said yesterday: "I have been very unhappy for some time and the death threats have just added to my misery".

Late last year Dr Orr and 43 other applicants obtained an injunction from the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court ordering the police to refrain from systematically assaulting detainees.

At the time she was employed as a district surgeon by the health authority. She was given new duties treating elderly patients under Cape provincial care, which meant she would no longer be in contact with detainees held under the state of emergency.

Dr Orr, who plans to start a US tour in April at the invitation of the US Information Service, said she had applied for an interim post with a clinic in the Alexandria black township outside Johannesburg.

She said the threats to her life had been reported to the police and she had changed her address and taken an unlisted telephone number.

Police yesterday reported four more deaths in continued black township violence - bringing the toll for the first three days of the year to at least 20. All four were killed in black-on-black attacks, according to police.

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Bedouin smugglers being paraded by police at Bilbeis, Egypt, yesterday in front of a cache of hashish slabs and a Russian AK47 rifle. The men were arrested with the haul in the desert east of Cairo.

Cocaine leads rise in world drugs abuse

Vienna (AFP) - Worldwide abuse of drugs, especially cocaine, rose last year despite stiff anti-drug measures in many countries, the International Narcotics Control Board said in its annual report released yesterday.

The board, a UN body, said co-ordinated action was imperative for progress to be made. But the report noted that police had scored some successes, with stiffer penalties for traffickers, destruction of drug-related crops and tighter control of chemicals used to process the raw materials into finished products.

In Europe, most narcotics came from abroad, although there was an attempt to grow

illicit opium poppies in Italy and Spain which was speedily ended by the authorities, the report said.

"It is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the opiates available in the region originate in the Near and Middle East and South Asia, while 20 per cent originate in South-east Asia."

The report said large quantities of heroin were seized in 1985, but there were signs that it was less available than in 1984. A record haul of 133lb destined for the United States was seized in October 1985 by Austrian police. Most of the traffickers were Iranians.

The countries which reported to Interpol the largest seizures

were, in descending order: Britain, France, The Netherlands, West Germany and Italy.

The study also reported increased use of cocaine, originating from South America.

"Availability of and trafficking in cocaine have increased sharply in recent years, indicating the determined efforts of traffickers to expand the illicit market in Western Europe. In 1984, for the second consecutive year, more than one tonne of cocaine was seized. Seizures reported to Interpol during the first half of 1985 amounted to almost half a tonne."

The countries reporting the largest total seizures were:

Spain, West Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

In the United States, the abuse of drugs, often in combination, "remains a serious health problem". Quoting 1984 figures it said cannabis was the most widely used drug, although consumption dropped by an estimated 3 per cent, mainly because of less use by young people.

Cocaine abuse was estimated to have increased by 11 per cent although the US authorities expected the number of abusers to stabilize. Heroin consumption fell slightly in 1984 but deaths from heroin and morphine increased by 31 per cent.

Atlantic rescue for record bid crew

Corunna (Reuters) - Five surviving crew of a giant French catamaran which foundered off the Spanish coast during a transatlantic record bid were airlifted to a hospital in this northwestern Spanish city.

Coastguard officials said a sixth crew member, Jean Castennet, went missing when the yacht Jet Services, named after the sponsor company, capsized in a gale three days ago and was presumed dead.

Doctors at the hospital in Corunna said one of the crew, Mark Grillemat, was seriously injured. But the skipper, Atlantic record-holder Patrick Morvan, and three other crew members were in good health.

Karajan check

Vienna (AFP) - Herbert von Karajan, the conductor, has cancelled two concerts here on January 11 and 12 to travel to the United States for a medical check-up, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra announced. He is 77.

Convict spree

Oslo (Reuters) - Two convicts with credit cards have run up bills totalling three million kroner (£275,000) on a round-the-world spending spree since escaping from a Norwegian jail three months ago.

Women police

Delhi (Reuters) - The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said he was setting up a special women-only police battalion to give women better representation in India's security forces.

Hashish haul

Delhi (Reuters) - Three tonnes of hashish worth £1 million were seized in India's biggest narcotics haul when customs officials raided a cargo of chemicals bound for West Germany.

Not so decadent

Peking (Reuters) - Performances in Shanghai of music by Beethoven, who was banned as decadent in the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution, have drawn more than 24,000 people since September, the New China news agency said.

Fungus export

Peking (Reuters) - China has added an ancient tonic to its menu of exports for Japanese and Hong Kong gourmets: chicken prepared with caterpillar fungus. The tonic for lung and kidney ailments is part of a drive to export medicinal foods.

Fear of the unknown US gripped by Aids hysteria

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Health authorities in Boston are being badgered by a doctor who wants Aids victims sent to an island off the Massachusetts coast that was once a leper colony.

Fear of Aids is as much a phenomenon as Aids itself. Although no one knows whether the virus is spread through saliva, an Aids carrier in Michigan has been charged with trying to murder four policemen by spitting at them.

Numerous voices in America are being raised in an effort to calm anxiety and hysteria. But in many minds Aids has taken on the terrifying characteristics of a plague.

Some churches have stopped using the common communion cup. People have become nervous about eating in restaurants with homosexual staff. A couple visiting New Orleans reported being so frightened of eating out that they lived off tinned food in their hotel room.

In cities like New York and San Francisco, with high levels of Aids, an insurance company insists on blood tests.

Many health specialists are convinced that casual contact does not spread Aids and say there is no evidence that it is spread by shared glasses or

sneezes, or by touching an Aids victim. But they cannot be categorical in their assurances.

Experts say people stand a greater chance of being struck by lightning than by Aids. But many people do not trust experts, and there is a strong feeling of "better safe than sorry".

So there is heavy pressure on local authorities to "do something". New York has reacted by closing two notorious homosexual houses on the grounds that they were places of "high risk" sexual activity. New York has a third of all the Aids cases in the US.

Many health specialists believe that closing these places does nothing to attack the disease. Authorities like New York are accused of appeasing a panicky public rather than tackling the problem through education. Mr Edward Koch, the mayor, called sex house owners "merchants of death".

Aids is spread primarily through sodomy, the sharing of infected needles among drug addicts and infected blood. Nearly three-quarters of American victims are homosexual or bisexual.

The number of drug addicts catching the disease is increasing sharply. A third of the new

cases this year are addicts. Many frequent the "shooting galleries" in this city where a dirty needle can be rented.

Many authorities are enacting or proposing laws in response to concern about Aids. There are proposals that health and food workers should be certificated as being free of Aids. In several parts of the country children with Aids are banned from school.

Service men are being screened for the disease. Those who have used drugs or engaged in homosexual practices are being discharged.

Since the death from Aids of Rock Hudson, the actor, there has been a large increase in calls to Aids information centres. The Screen Actors Guild has declared open-mouth kissing dangerous and says actors can refuse to do it.

All 50 US states now have Aids cases. More than 15,000 have been diagnosed and half the victims have died. The number of cases is doubling each year and it is estimated that between 700,000 and 1.4 million Americans carry the virus.

No one can say how many of these will develop the disease. That is part of the uncertainty that causes the fear.

China invites bishop home to see mother

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong, John Baptist Wu, who has been encouraged by the Pope to develop contacts with the Peking Government and with the breakaway Chinese "Patriotic Catholic Church", is soon to visit his mother for the first time in 40 years, in Guangdong Province.

Bishop Wu, who is 60, visited Peking in March, the first Chinese Catholic bishop to do since 1949.

His reunion with his mother, in his native Wu Hui county, is the result of an invitation from the provincial branch of the Peking Religious Affairs Bureau. Diplomats say that it has more to do with efforts to win over people with Taiwan links to work towards reunification of the two Chinas than with any desire to improve relations with the Vatican.

Any progression Sino-Vatican relations from such a visit would be incidental, they say, and would be hampered by what Peking sees as Vatican

interference in China's internal affairs, that is, in its dealings with Taiwan.

Bishop Wu left his home village after the Sino-Japanese War in 1945 to study in the South China Regional Seminary in Hong Kong before going to Italy, the United States and then Taiwan, where he was a parish priest for 16 years.

The "Patriotic Catholic Church" severed links with the Vatican in 1957, since when it has trained, ordained and appointed its own priests and bishops. Chinese Church officials say that there are 100,000 Catholics in Guangdong.

Six Hong Kong officials, including two priests and a man, will accompany Bishop Wu on his 10-day visit, which begins on January 21. He will also see his younger brother and is expected to call on the provincial governor, Mr Ye Xuanping, son of the ill and ageing Chinese leader, Marshal Ye Jianying.

Burkina says Mali plot caused war

Paris (Reuters) - Burkina Faso has blamed the outbreak of a five-day war with Mali last week on a Malian plot to topple the left-wing Burkina Government, and has denied that it was caused by a frontier dispute.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Basile Guissou, speaking in Paris, accused Mali of attacking Burkina Faso in an attempt to overthrow the Government of President Thomas Sankara.

"The fact that the fighting was along the full length of our frontier, that foreign elements in Mali, opponents of our Government, were in Malian Army ranks... show that the aim was to overthrow a political system," Mr Guissou said.

Burkina Faso and Mali, two of the world's poorest countries, went to war on Christmas Day. The fighting was generally seen as a flare-up in a long dispute over a mineral-rich border area. A ceasefire signed five days ago has been supervised by an observer force of soldiers from eight West African countries.

Mr Guissou, who said his Government believed the peace accord would hold but did not rule out further hostilities, later held talks with the French Minister of External Relations, M Roland Dumas.

The Non-Aggression and Defence Aid Agreement, and Abidjan-based pact of French-speaking West African states, said that no incident had been reported since the ceasefire came into force on Monday.

The observer force consists of two officers each from the seven states: Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Niger and Togo, and two from Benin.

3 Heysel officers replaced

From Richard Owen Brussels

Three of the senior Belgian Gendarmier officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty and given administrative posts.

A spokesman for the Gendarmier said yesterday that the removals did not amount to disciplinary action and were part of a routine rotation of police officers in the course of annual promotions and demotions.

But most Belgian commentators saw the move as reflective of widespread criticism of security at the stadium and failure of the police to prevent or contain the violence.

The Chief of Police, General Bernaert, is not blamed and was largely exonerated by the Government inquiry set up after the Heysel disaster. Instead, lower level officials have been singled out for criticism.

The three officers, removed from duty were named as Colonel Alfons van der Borcht, police commander in the Brabant region, Major Kenzie and Captain Mahieu. The three had 100 gendarmes under their command inside the stadium.

In a further follow-up to the tragedy, which occurred on May 29 but is still causing repercussions, high-level liaison has been strengthened between the Gendarmier and the Ministries of the Interior and Justice.

Marcos rivals make neutral zone pledge

Manila (Reuters, AP) - Philippines opposition leaders are vowing to make South-East Asia a zone of neutrality, freedom and peace if they win the presidential election on February 7.

Outlining its "minimum programme" said yesterday that it would repudiate all agreements made by the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos seen to be against the national interests.

It pledged to respect United States air and naval bases until the agreement expires in 1991; but gave a warning that after the deadline "we shall keep all our options open."

Mr Marcos, who has been in power 20 years, is opposed by Mrs Corason Aquino, widow of Benigno Aquino, the murdered opposition leader.

The opposition statement was signed by Mrs Aquino's running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, head of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization, and Mr Jovito Salonga, a coalition of parties founded by Benigno Aquino. Mrs Aquino signed as a witness.

They promise to amend the constitution to ensure checks and balances to ensure freedom, to eliminate graft and corruption and to free all political prisoners.

Mrs Aquino and Mr Laurel have campaigned for two days in north-west Luzon island, long a Marcos stronghold, as Mr Marcos told an American interviewer he could not allow them to bring Communists into government if they came to power.

Asked to comment on a statement by Mrs Aquino that she would welcome Communists in her government so long as they renounce all forms of violence, he replied that it was more or less an admission that she has supported by Communist rebels.

Mrs Aquino made the statement on Thursday, adding that she would never be a Communist herself.

Colombo hints at snap poll

From Vijitha Yapa Colombo

There is growing speculation in Sri Lanka that President Jayewardene is planning a snap election around April.

Analysts say the granting of a pardon to the opposition leader Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike on Wednesday was the first indication. Her civic rights were taken away in 1980 after she was found guilty of abuse of power during her term of office as Prime Minister from 1970 to 1977.

Press reports said yesterday that the pardon came as India pressed Sri Lanka to consider the proposals by the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front to resolve the island's ethnic crisis.

It wants amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces and for them to be given autonomy. The Government refuses to consider this saying that Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims live in almost equal numbers in the eastern province.

An election will not affect the position of President Jayewardene, who was re-elected in 1982 to serve till 1990.

Chocolate racketeers kill driver

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

Polish detectives have broken up a ruthless gang of chocolate racketeers who hijacked a lorry load of sweets and then murdered the driver by burying him naked in a forest.

The hijack happened some months before Christmas when sweets fetch soaring prices on the black market. Most chocolate is strictly rationed and queues in front of big Warsaw sweet shops can number several hundred.

The driver was talking about five tonnes from a Warsaw factory to Tarnobrzeg in the south-eastern corner of Poland and was accompanied by a friend.

When police tracked down the chocolate, which could fetch 20 million zloties (about £100,000) in the illegal bazaars, the trail led to the driver's friend named as Mr G, and four accomplices. Until Christmas Mr G maintained that he was in cahoots with the driver, they had since lost touch with each other.

After a last round of interrogation, Mr G cracked. He led police to where the driver had been buried under 30in of earth.

French hearts warmed by controversial comic

From Diana Geddes Paris

Unlike the British, the French do not have a tradition of active individual support for charities. But the *Restaurants du Coeur*, launched at Christmas by France's best-known comedian, Coluche, to provide free meals for the poor and hungry, seem to have caught the public imagination.

A seven-hour fund-raising programme on radio last month brought in an immediate £50,000 from private individuals, with a further undisclosed amount from companies and public bodies, and the money is still coming in. Some 50,000 meals a day are already being served, but the aim is to raise that to 200,000 a day, for which

a total of £2 million needs to be found.

Entertainers such as Yves Montand and Catherine Deneuve, have flocked to lend their support, with singer Michel Sardou leading the way with a cheque for 100,000 francs (£9,000). In the run-up to the French general election in March politicians on the right and the left have also hastened to give their backing to such a popular cause.

Gifts in kind have been pouring in: 6,000 bottles of Beaujolais from wine-growers in Burgundy; a train-load of eggs from a Breton farmers' union; 100 tons of potatoes from a supermarket chain; 25,000 meals from a fast-food store; 20,000 packets of biscuits - from a 22 biscuit

manufacturer, and the use of a computer to help co-ordinate the operation from a computer company.

For Coluche's humour, which shows a marked penchant for the scatological and the blasphemous, is not to everyone's taste. Sentencing him recently for shouting obscenities at a policeman, the presiding judge described Coluche as a hoodlum. But it is probably his controversial character, as much as his ready access to the media, which has attracted attention to the *Restaurants du Coeur* and made the venture such a success.

The idea first came to Coluche last autumn when, after helping organise a charity concert in aid of the Ethiopian

famine victims, he received dozens of letters asking why he was not doing anything for the hungry in France.

According to Government figures cited by Coluche, there are some 500,000 people in France who do not have enough to eat; opposition leaders put the figure at nearer two million. France has no social security safety net to ensure that everyone has at least the wherewithal to survive, and last winter there was a public outcry about the plight of what became known erroneously as *les nouveaux pauvres*, the new poor.

When Coluche first announced his scheme three months ago many people had difficulty in believing that the blasphemer had really turned

saint. He was suspected of simply wanting a bit of free publicity.

But he has now succeeded in convincing most people that his motives are sincere and worthy of support. He has scored a particular hit with the young, who recently voted him their personality of the year.

The *Restaurants du Coeur*, which are mostly not restaurants at all but distribution centres where people can take away a prepared meal in a bag, are due to come to an end on March 21.

But Coluche hopes by that time to have engendered a new spirit of generosity in the heart of ordinary French people, which will continue to be expressed through the more traditional, existing charities.

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ANDRÁS SCHIFF piano YUKIO SHIOKAWA violin MOZART CYCLE The Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin

JEAN-LOUIS HAGUENAUER piano SCHUBERT: Three Klavierstücke D.946 DEBussy: From Images Op. 10 CHOPIN: Op. 40 MUSSORGSKY: Pictures at an Exhibition

RICHARD TAUBER PRIZE RECITAL ANNA STEIGER soprano PAMELA LIDIARD piano

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DRACULA... "AN ENIGMA OVER THE CURTAINS"

UP AND UNDER... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

NO SEX, PLEASE - WE'RE BRITISH... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

DAISY FULLS IT OFF... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

THE BIRTH OF A NATION... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

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THE BIRTH OF A NATION... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

THE BIRTH OF A NATION... "A WONDROUS CONFECTION"

also pages 22 & 30

THE ARTS

Television: Mark Lawson finds that Last of the Summer Wine is showing signs of long-haul palsy. Richard Morrison previews Rossini at Versailles and Peter Ackroyd wraps up last night's Right to Reply

Vintage wine goes off

As the credits rolled on this week's feature-length version of Roy Clarke's 12-year-old Yorkshire sit-com, an announcer reminded the audience that "three of the original stories are available on a BBC video-cassette": a painful confirmation of the gulf between what is and what was.



New team: Compo, Seymour (centre) and Clegg

Clark can write broad farce - his other hit-com Open All Hours is a more normally comic comedy - but it always seemed that Summer Wine came from a different part of the brain. Not anymore: in the opening moments of this week's show a broad-bottomed postwoman, bending over, confessed to having the district's "largest round" - the sound-track gave a whoopee-cushion hoot.

A feast for Rossini fans

Individually they may be short of cash to make lavish arts programmes, but collectively the national broadcasting organizations of Europe can still wield a hefty purse. They would have needed it for Rossini at Versailles (BBC-2, 8.10 tonight). This 100-minute production may be little more than a pretty televised concert, but as realized by the television cameras, this simple concept works out rather like a mixture of Glyndebourne and The Good Old Days, with the composer and his chums seen hurrying from an al fresco supper to join audience, orchestra and cast - all of whom are in period costume.

Contributions from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Claudio Abbado's baton, but he is present throughout the bel canto feast which follows. Ruggiero Raimondi sets the pace with the Barber of Seville "ländler aria". Marilyn Horne, somewhat more static on her feet, is equally agile in voice as she negotiates a flurry of Sembramide coloratura. Montserrat Caballé, sparkling like a Tif could afford. It is the 1840s, and the Royal Opera House at Versailles is the venue for a grand gala to celebrate the Italian maestro, now about halfway through his admirably extensive retirement.



Paul Brook as Rossini

The viewers' soapbox corner

Right to Reply Annual (Channel 4) emphasized once again why visual "consumer service" remains one of the most interesting programmes on television. Here was Jeremy Isaacs trying to adopt a high intellectual tone in order to justify his showing of Der Jarman's Rabies, and signally failing to do anything other than appear smug or, at best, insufficiently briefed. And here was a representative of the IBA trying unsuccessfully to defend another decision from that weak organization.

example, to see how often in the course of last year "left-wing" documentary-makers were accused of manipulation or censorship - and how badly they defended themselves with a mixture of self-righteousness and hypocrisy. The contributions from the Video-Box, of course, the most fascinating: unlike those winsome "vox pop" interviews arranged by such programmes as That's Life, here is the real thing.

Gas Macdonald, who is undoubtedly the best "moderate" on television, explained that the average "viewer" spends some four hours of each day watching television: "the medium" represents so pervasive an influence that to criticize it, perhaps to remain sane. This is not just the sphere of the intellectual or the polemicist (although they have a proper function also) but, as last night's programme suggested, that of the person who feels threatened or diminished by what appears on the small screen in their home.

It was instructive, for... It is one way of fighting back.

Gallery Handel in words and pictures

Hallelujah! Handel National Portrait Gallery



After Goupy "The Charming Brute," an anonymous engraving

A liking for Handel's music would seem to be a prerequisite for enjoyment of the National Portrait Gallery's current exhibition Hallelujah! Handel - A Celebration of his Life and Times 1685-1759. It only because you hear rather a lot of it as you walk round the 277 items. But in fact the exhibition, admirably gathered by Jacob Simon and running until Handel's 301st birthday (February 23), will fascinate anyone interested in Georgian London.

Naturally the portraits of Handel dominate all else. It is indicative of the exalted circle in which he moved that he was portrayed more often (and by better artists) than any other eighteenth-century composer. This exhibition brings together for the first time, the two massive Thomas Hudson portraits: one showing the composer successful, confident and confident in late middle age; the other a far sadder image of the blind Handel a few years later. Mercier's delightfully informal view of the younger Handel hard at work in shabby red cap and gown is included, as is Goupy's gross and cruel caricature of Handel as the "Harmonious Boer".

Radio Polished passions of youth

If I had to nominate one production not only as the pick of 1985 but as first-footing 1986 in British style, I think it would have to be Peter Everett's series You'll Never Be 16 Again. The last of its seven parts was heard on New Year's Day (Radio 4) and set a standard which it would be nice to think will prove a norm for the remainder of the year. But this would be some achievement, for 1985 was already a vintage year for this kind of montage documentary, the greater number of which, as I remarked back in November, hailed from Mr Everett and his colleagues in Manchester.

What has emerged? One pattern has been crystal-clear: all the teenage passions of the last three decades have arisen in response to one constantly recurring human need: an insatiable craving for attention. As the nation grew prosperous and the teenage market had big money to spend, commerce came a-wooing and a-flattering, handing out yet bigger dollops of attention and seemingly prepared to respond indefinitely to the ever more extreme demands that this created. Naturally in such a climate yesterday's attention-getter rapidly became today's yawn, so we have been witnessing the plays growing more and more dramatic, more and more outrageous. And as the series has gone on it has been impossible to ignore the fact that this unending search for notice has engendered many patterns and trends, emerging, fading, repeating, as it has moved from the early Fifties to the recent Eighties. The Teds and their girls of chapter one are now old enough to be grandparents; the flower children have gone to seed; sobriety keeps overtaking the more elderly punks.

gramme seven there were traces of intolerance, brutality and ill-will missing from the first. One factor in this is that the teenage market has more or less collapsed: its members have fewer jobs, a lot less money and therefore an increasing shortage of attention. So much for a high-point of 1985, an Everest from Everett. There have been other peaks: The Thinker, Shogun, a leading lady, and a brief but heartening upturn in radio comedy (King Street Junior, 1994, After Henry, Foddyke Saga).

Actualities was a string of programmes on different topics. All Never Be 16 Again was in effect a single programme, a treatment of a single theme divided into seven chapters. Its immense scope, covering a period of some 30 years, has allowed us to see all kinds of patterns and trends, emerging, fading, repeating, as it has moved from the early Fifties to the recent Eighties.

As the nation grew prosperous and the teenage market had big money to spend, commerce came a-wooing and a-flattering, handing out yet bigger dollops of attention and seemingly prepared to respond indefinitely to the ever more extreme demands that this created.

There have been some valleys too - none deeper than Radio 4's attempt to win a younger audience with the gruesome Fright Radio. Curiously it is one of that network's triumphs. The Great and Good Mr Handel, repeated only last Thursday, that reminds me of a Radio 4 chaser that has been unfilled since I gave warning of it back in April.

The triple anniversaries of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti have ended as they began with plenty of the appropriate music, but without a single programme of which you could say that it truly marked the occasion and sounded a clear note of celebration. Conceivably some recent changes in the upper echelons of BBC Radio's music management will mean that future centenarians get their due.

David Wade

Concert Kreisler String Orchestra/Thomas Wigmore Hall

Despite its rather unencouraging name, the Kreisler String Orchestra, which is the resident ensemble at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, is an auspiciously capable young group. And I really had no objection to their inclusion of an arrangement by their conductor, Michael Thomas, of Brahms's Op 111 String Quintet. Indeed its formidable technical challenges were met rather well, though there were few musical advantages to be gained from the exercise, since this is strictly soloistic music and the toughness which these forces tended to remove from it is an essential part of its message.

which the programme note writer, a member of the orchestra whose name shall remain unrevealed, loftily attempted to justify this enterprise. According to him it is "a false sense of purity which insists on adding to that struggle (latent in the music) and even obscuring the music's clarity of purpose by insisting on a solo quintet". Are we then to assume that when Brahms specified a string quintet on his title page, he really would have preferred something else? How very remiss of him.

Enough chiding, though, for the central work in this concert was so very good, even though we had first set through a performance, albeit a fine, well-rounded one, of Grieg's ubiquitous Holberg Suite. The work concerned was Britten's youthful Rimbaud cycle, Les Illuminations, in which the soloist was

Richard Morrison

Jennifer Smith. Hers may be a smallish voice, but here it was beautifully balanced with the strings.

Stephen Pettitt

Among many highlights were the passion and technical control that went side by side in "Villes" and the elegantly implicit serenity of "Antique". Miss Smith coloured Britten's highly sensitized lines throughout with a compelling subtlety and the strings were very much on top of this none-too-easy score.

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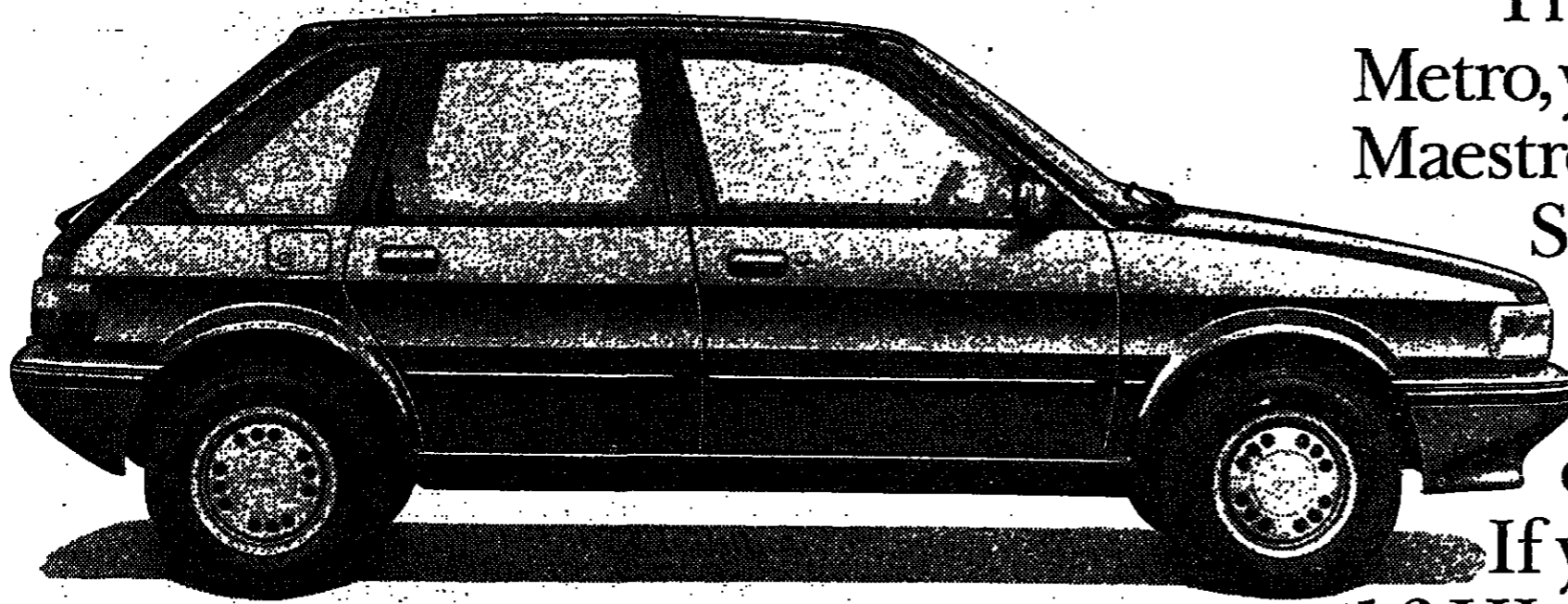
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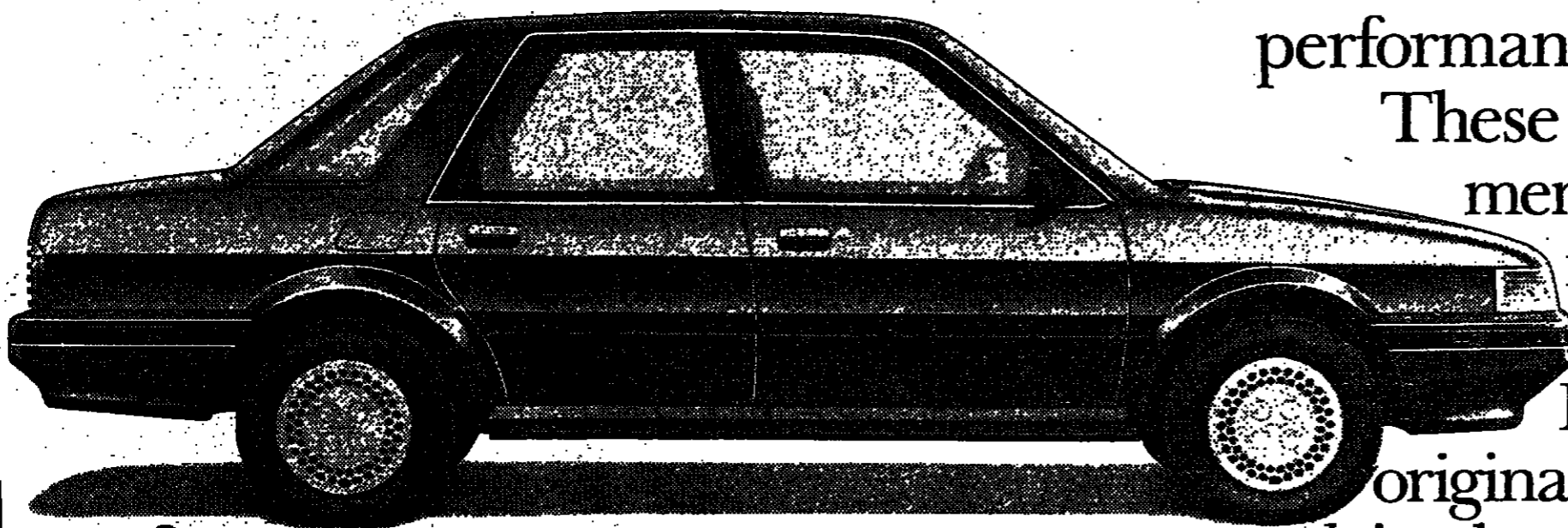
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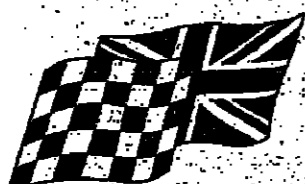
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BALLOTS FOLLOW BULLETS

Politicians and statesmen are fond of New Year messages. Whatever their tendencies towards seasonal piety, they are confined to words alone. Irish terrorists saw in 1986 by murdering a pair of policemen. It was a New Year message to remind us of some underlying realities in Northern Ireland, which have been partially obscured by recent political excitements.

It was delivered alongside two statistics which emerged this week. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has just suffered its worst year of casualties since 1976. With the despatch of 550 additional troops, the Army's strength in the province is at its highest level for more than 10 years. All in all, a grim aftermath to the cheerful tableau of British and Irish ministers assembled to sign the Hillsborough agreement in November.

Elected government in Northern Ireland is under systematic assault by armed military conspiracy. Agreements, such as the one signed at Hillsborough, which redefine relations between democratic states may, eventually, affect the battle against terrorism by altering the context in which it is fought. But agreements can do very little for the everyday business of preventing the murder of soldiers and policemen. The ministers of the British and Irish governments who are set to defend their agreement in the run-up to parliamentary by-elections later this month would do well to frame their defence in that knowledge, lest anyone be deceived into thinking that the IRA has been somehow forgotten.

The IRA, explicitly committed to a long campaign to wear down the British electorate's commitment to Northern Ireland, need only enough killing to ensure that no-one does forget them. That basic purpose is common to every atrocity, although their choice of targets may vary over time. Lately, they have been aiming most frequently at the RUC, perhaps in the hope of lowering morale to the point where policemen might exceed their powers, or could in some way be cast in the role of a "sectarian" (that is to say, pro-Unionist and anti-Nationalist) force. They have not found it easy to provoke this, and their frustration may be seen in their threats against a softer target, the contractors faced with a heavy rebuilding programme in several police stations.

By stepping up murder, the IRA are also setting up a test for the Hillsborough agreement. More crime means more investigation. There is always the possibility that nationalist politicians will claim that police action is increasing the "separation" of the Catholic community - and they are likely to add recruit more voters to Provisional Sinn Féin. But the Hillsborough agreement can only work if Dublin's ministers at the inter-governmental conference can combine their role as representatives of the north's minority Catholic population with support for properly conducted security operations. They are entitled, and encouraged, by the agreement to urge northern

Catholics to take part in monitoring the quality of police work and the past has shown that this is necessary.

But everyday policing cannot become a matter for continuous political control and interference. Nor will the Hillsborough agreement amount to very much if disagreements between politicians and diplomats about security are little more than coded exchanges about partition and history, with the purposes and details of security operations absorbed in a larger quarrel. If the agreement has any success in building support inside the minority community for legitimate authority, it can only do so if nationalist politicians can lay aside the sectarian, symbolic view of policing, and treat the issues which arise on their merits. It goes without saying that this structure applies in exactly the same measure to the police, whose impartiality may well meet stiffer tests if and when opposition to the agreement turns to civil disobedience.

Parliamentaries of the north clearly intend to show that they continue to wield a power of veto over political progress; and indeed political activity of any kind. There are now hunger-strikers in the Maze for the first time in five years, who are capable of mounting a drama which will come to overshadow all else. A Government's only defence against this sort of attack is a steady determination, forged by the knowledge that it will have to be maintained at high cost for a long time.

BANGLADESH BOWLS A WIDE

The Foreign Office's expression of "regret" over the Bangladesh government's last-minute refusal to allow four English cricketers into its country must reflect Whitehall's instinctive preference for damage limitation. It is therefore up to others, less professionally constrained, to ensure that Dacca is left in no doubt over the true nature of British reaction.

The Bangladesh government's excuse is that its own cricket control board did not produce confirmation until the eleventh hour of the four players' links with South Africa. But this is not even an adequate explanation for what can only be seen as a grave discourtesy to this country.

It is true that each government has the right to decide who should or should not be admitted past its shores. But the England "B" cricket party were travelling as the quasi-official representatives of a friendly nation. The very least that might have been expected of their hosts was that any such difficulties would have been sorted out in good time, and that it should have absorbed itself the consequences of its own failure to do so.

Whenever they ought to have been lodged, were the objections unreasonable? They were made after all on the basis of the Commonwealth's 1977 Glen-

eagles Agreement, which committed member states to take every practical step to "discourage" its nationals from contact or competition with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa. The methods by which this commitment should be discharged were left to the governments themselves.

The method adopted by successive British governments since has been one of gentle persuasion on the administrative body of the sport concerned. It has then been up to that particular organization to take what action it considers appropriate. That may not sound like the strong stance favoured by some other Commonwealth countries. But few, if any sporting bodies can be in much doubt over Whitehall's displeasure.

No MCC touring team has been to South Africa (and no South African team has been here) since the middle 1960s. The 1968-9 tour of the Cape was actually cancelled by England. The so-called "rebel" England cricketers who went to South Africa in the early 1980s were banned for three years from the national side, and only re-joined it last summer. This last action might not have been as punitive as that taken by the West Indies, which banned its own "rebels" for life. But it was hardly a case

of turning a blind eye, and was widely criticized at the time for being too harsh.

The players to whom Bangladesh has now objected have been penalized for coaching in South Africa as individuals. They were picked for England under a ruling by the International Cricket Conference of 1981 that each country should be free to pick its own best side. This particular quartet must have been (or at least should have been) considered by the selectors to be vulnerable. But the choice in the end deserved to be respected by the Bangladesh authorities.

Perhaps the Dacca government is smarting over the refusal of Britain to operate full-blooded economic sanctions against Pretoria. If so then it has been ill-advised to take umbrage in this way. With its own previous record on democratic rights it can hardly expect its decision to be treated in this country with respect.

We must now hope that Zimbabwe does not follow this example and, still more so, that the fever does not extend to the forthcoming tour by the England First XI in the Caribbean. There is a point beyond which sanctions can only be counterproductive. They then risk bringing apartheid into sport not taking it away.

NIGERIAN UNREALITY

It has been evident for some time that in negotiations between bankers, international organizations and insolvent countries, the initiative can readily pass to debtor countries that are in a position to seize it. Banks are more reluctant than ever to call a default, because of the domino effect on their own balance sheets. And multinational companies are anxious to retain and develop important if temporarily depressed markets.

Pressures at home, however, provide the greatest stimulus for all but the most stable debtor governments to call the bluff of the International Monetary Fund and question the assumption that an economic restructuring agreement with the IMF is a vital pre-requisite for rescheduling bank debts.

The new regime in Nigeria has revealed a subtle strategy to do just that. Following the breakdown of talks with the IMF over Nigeria's reluctance to devalue a currency that trades at a fifth of its nominal exchange rate in the black market, it has announced measures at home and conditions for rescheduling that offer both the banks and the IMF enough of what they want to make them think twice. Creditors abroad are privately re-

assured about Nigeria's good faith and good intentions. In particular, the Budget included drastic cuts in the subsidies that Nigeria, a leading oil producer, has given to restrain domestic prices of motor fuel. There are also moves to restructure the economy to encourage currently negligible non-oil exports of products such as food.

On the other side, Major-General Babangida's government has followed Peru's example and imposed unilaterally a limit on the proportion of the country's foreign exchange earnings that will be used to service up to 20 billion dollars of foreign debt. It proposes to open rescheduling talks on that basis, although the finance minister later suggested that the 30 per cent limit was a negotiating position. The bankers may have some sympathy with this stance, in that the limit will enable Nigeria to service a good part of its longer-term debt, however anxious traders and insurers may be about their already delayed trade debts. Any deterioration in oil trading would in any case have limited Nigeria's ability to pay.

The future of Nigeria's currency, the naira, is, however, crucial both to its developing

financial position and to the restructuring of its economy. The prospect of drastic devaluation was unpopular at home. No wonder. For devaluation represents a drop in living standards unless that is delayed by inflation. Yet the changes in the oil market have cut the value of Nigeria's output whether the people like it or not.

Attempts to disguise this are likely to undermine not only the government's efforts to restructure the economy but also to crack down on the endemic corruption that clogs its wheels. The government has in mind some kind of compromise involving a two-tier currency market that will partly legitimize the black market and perhaps pave the way to modest devaluation. Yet this sets up more of the administrative controls that breed corruption. A new kind of import license is to be available, but only to some and still rigidly controlled. And to counteract the currency misalignment, a 30 per cent import levy is to be imposed to finance export incentives, both openings for further malpractice. While it builds further such structures to disguise market realities, the Nigerian government will have little hope of cleaning up the country's business practices.

Health authority cuts

From the Director of The Oxford Street Association
Sir, Dr Southam's letter (December 30) on the problems facing University College Hospital has implications for Oxford Street.

The accident and emergency (casualty) department at the Middlesex Hospital - our local hospital - has been closed from January 1. Accidents in Oxford Street, accord-

ing to the Bloomsbury Health Authority's information, should "attend" (sic) the accident and emergency department at University College Hospital which, according to Dr Southam, is having the greatest difficulty in meeting its existing commitments.

Oxford Street is one of the busiest traffic streets in London. At peak it is served by over 260 buses and 600 taxis an hour. It is also the busiest

shopping street in Europe. The inevitable, if unfortunate, consequence is some two hundred traffic accidents annually involving personal injury for which the Bloomsbury Health Authority seems ill prepared.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SHEPHERD, Director,
The Oxford Street Association,
Eastgate House,
16-19 Eastcastle Street, W1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Takeovers not in public interest

From Lord Hacking
Sir, It would have been unthinkable a few years ago for a company with the assets of the value of another company to find sufficient finance to launch a takeover bid. However this is exactly what we are witnessing in the Argyll bid for Distillers. Nor is this the first such major bid to reach our shores. There is also Elders, IXL which is attempting its own David and Goliath act against Allied Lyons.

While this form of hostile takeover bid, certainly of the proportions of the Elders and Argyll bids, may be new to us, they have been in the United States for a little time. For example, the GAF Corporation, reportedly one tenth of the size of its target company, is currently locked in battle with Union Carbide on a bid valued at US \$4 billion with the target being a firm valued at US \$3.75 billion. Some of these bids have succeeded and some not, but at least one US major corporation, during the last four months, has been pulled apart in such a takeover without regard to the industry in which it operated or the public interest at large.

No expertise in takeovers is required to appreciate that the offeror in these so-called "leveraged" bids has to obtain huge loans for financing and sustaining the bid. Argyll has already had to seek net borrowings of £600 million and if it had to make a higher bid it would have to increase its net borrowings further still. Thus to make and sustain such bids the offeror has to rely not upon the assets in his balance sheet but upon the larger assets in the target company's balance sheet.

Labour learning from mistakes

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Perry Barr (Labour)
Sir, Neil Kinnock is quite realistic in placing rationalization on the back burner. Critics had better make up their minds what they want, "more investment and new jobs" or "more investment for the same jobs". I know what my constituents will vote for.

Simply restoring the status quo will be unacceptable to workers, consumers and customers. We could be offering more unaccountable, unrepresentative State monopolies, support for which is passive or, at most, based on a vested interest. Genuine accountability to Parliament has been non-existent. The former Birmingham Municipal Bank was more accountable to the citizens of Birmingham than any nationalised industry I can name.

If the general public had actually felt they owned and controlled the public-sector industries sold off it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for a sell-off policy to have been put forward, let alone executed. The running of such industries has not even been in line with the Labour Party constitution, which calls for "common ownership" and the "best obtainable system of popular administration". Whatever else they have been, the administrations have not been "popular".

Time spent now using our brains on the structure and accountability of the existing public sector will pay dividends, not the least being the winning of wide public support for the public sector. The new investment required to put our people back to work will be public-sector led. It will not win support if we show that we have not learnt from our mistakes of the past.

Yours,
JEFF ROOKER,
House of Commons,
December 31.

From Mr John Parfitt
Sir, I'm not rich and I don't own any shares in quoted companies. I do, however, have a stake in my company's pension fund and a couple of life insurance policies and my wife has a small unit trust holding. All of these investments are looked after for us by the so-called "institutions".

Does Mr Kinnock (report, December 30) now propose to penalise us for leaving it to them rather than running our own pathetic portfolios - an activity for which we have neither the time nor the ability: nor indeed the wealth?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARFITT,
80 Higher Drive,
Purley,
Surrey,
December 30.

No honour for Geldof

From Mr Derek Bartlett
Sir, It is reported in today's issue of The Times (January 2) that the omission of Mr Bob Geldof from the New Year's Honours list is attributed to the fact that there is no precedent for giving an award to a non-British or Commonwealth citizen for activities which have not benefited this country or the Commonwealth.

I suggest that in the quite exceptional case of Mr Geldof this is not a justification. Indeed, he has performed a great service to this country in reawakening in its people a conscience and a humanity to a level that no present day British politician or cleric could ever have done.

Moreover, the omission of his name is a failure to acknowledge the selfless service to mankind given by his organisation's team of British citizens.

That this nation wished to honour Mr Geldof is clear from the widespread expressions of shock and disappointment which have followed the omission. The failure to recognise his wish demonstrates much more than it would if it were leaders are from the rest of us.

A government allegedly concerned with public image would have derived much greater benefit from a modest award to Mr Geldof than from a knighthood conferred to reward advice on voice pitch and hair style.

I suspect that in leaving Mr Geldof out of her list, Mrs Thatcher may well have found the first banana skin of 1986.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BARTLETT,
The Ridgeway,
Caversham,
Berkshire,
January 2.

From Mr Richard Langridge

Sir, At a time when our thoughts are turning naturally to the plight of the starving and the poor in this world, one of the crowning achievements of 1985 must be the work of relief organisations in assisting the famine in Africa.

Why then, when so many sections of British society have given to famine relief, have the financial institutions of the City of London been so quiet on this front? We have had Band Aid, Live Aid, Fashion Aid, Actor Aid, at Christmas London's shops contributed with Light Aid and last night on television we saw the appearance of Open Aid. Where, then, is City Aid?

The City's financial institutions are one of the country's greatest sources of revenue; every year upwards of £125 billion of business passes through City hands, making Live Aid's £50 million paltry by comparison. Why, then, are the bankers, the brokers, the investors of the City so mean?

Surely, when 1985 has been a year of tarnished reputations in the City, an event like City Aid could restore much-needed public confidence - as well as helping to prevent a continuing famine in Africa.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LANGRIDGE,
2 Chalfont Court,
236 Baker Street, NW1,
December 23.

From Mr Leslie W. Melville
Sir, Bob Geldof has helped this country by having it show the world that the people of this country recognize that in the ultimate test mankind is one family and ought to organize mutual help in any disaster.

Yours truly,
LESLIE W. MELVILLE,
23 Woodlands, Welwood Park,
Colchester, Essex.

Lessons from Swiss

From Dr Michael P. O'Reilly
Sir, Following your recent article, "The student pauper" (December 18) I felt it only right to inform you of what has happened at a grassroots level.

Student entitlement to housing benefit began approximately two years ago. At that time the average rent per person in Exeter was between £10 and £15 per week. With the threat of the Fowler review of social security I have been looking at student rents in and around Exeter, only to find the average rent is now £20-£25 per week, a rise of 66 per cent in the top figure in under two years.

It is quite clear that the people benefiting from housing benefit are the landlords, not the students. But before Mr Fowler jumps on my letter as a good reason to cut housing benefit for students, may I pose him a question: How many landlords will lower their rents when housing benefit disappears?

A victory for the private sector, yet again, I think.

Yours faithfully,
MARK A. F. HUBBARD,
(Welfare Officer),
Exeter University Guild of Students,
Devonshire House,
Stocker Road, Exeter,
Devon,
December 18.

The student pauper

From Mr Mark A. F. Hubbard
Sir, Following your recent article, "The student pauper" (December 18) I felt it only right to inform you of what has happened at a grassroots level.

Student entitlement to housing benefit began approximately two years ago. At that time the average rent per person in Exeter was between £10 and £15 per week. With the threat of the Fowler review of social security I have been looking at student rents in and around Exeter, only to find the average rent is now £20-£25 per week, a rise of 66 per cent in the top figure in under two years.

It is quite clear that the people benefiting from housing benefit are the landlords, not the students. But before Mr Fowler jumps on my letter as a good reason to cut housing benefit for students, may I pose him a question: How many landlords will lower their rents when housing benefit disappears?

A victory for the private sector, yet again, I think.

Yours faithfully,
MARK A. F. HUBBARD,
(Welfare Officer),
Exeter University Guild of Students,
Devonshire House,
Stocker Road, Exeter,
Devon,
December 18.

The forgotten disease

From the General Secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees
Sir, I must take issue with some of the points you make in your leader of December 19 concerning the move towards community care. In the first place, it is wrong to dismiss the charge that the Government sees community care as a money-saving exercise.

Services for the mentally ill have long been under-funded in this country and a simple admission by the Government that "community care is not a cheap option" will not suffice to quiet the fears of those who suspect that saving money is precisely the Government's intention.

Until the policy of an overall reduction in public expenditure

ceases, the NHS will remain unable to provide the capital and revenue expenditure needed to develop significant variations in provision between one local authority and another, and the lamentably inadequate procedures for monitoring standards advocated by central Government.

Therefore, while agreeing with you that urgent action is now needed to overcome the plight of those suffering from mental illness, and that they should be treated in the community, until we see a dramatic change in Government policy towards the NHS, progress in this area is unlikely.

Yours faithfully,
D. O. WILLIAMS,
General Secretary,
Confederation of Health Service Employees,
Glen House,
High Street,
Banstead,
Surrey,
December 24.

Labour learning from mistakes

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Perry Barr (Labour)
Sir, Neil Kinnock is quite realistic in placing rationalization on the back burner. Critics had better make up their minds what they want, "more investment and new jobs" or "more investment for the same jobs". I know what my constituents will vote for.

Simply restoring the status quo will be unacceptable to workers, consumers and customers. We could be offering more unaccountable, unrepresentative State monopolies, support for which is passive or, at most, based on a vested interest. Genuine accountability to Parliament has been non-existent. The former Birmingham Municipal Bank was more accountable to the citizens of Birmingham than any nationalised industry I can name.

If the general public had actually felt they owned and controlled the public-sector industries sold off it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for a sell-off policy to have been put forward, let alone executed. The running of such industries has not even been in line with the Labour Party constitution, which calls for "common ownership" and the "best obtainable system of popular administration". Whatever else they have been, the administrations have not been "popular".

Time spent now using our brains on the structure and accountability of the existing public sector will pay dividends, not the least being the winning of wide public support for the public sector. The new investment required to put our people back to work will be public-sector led. It will not win support if we show that we have not learnt from our mistakes of the past.

Yours,
JEFF ROOKER,
House of Commons,
December 31.

From Mr John Parfitt
Sir, I'm not rich and I don't own any shares in quoted companies. I do, however, have a stake in my company's pension fund and a couple of life insurance policies and my wife has a small unit trust holding. All of these investments are looked after for us by the so-called "institutions".

Does Mr Kinnock (report, December 30) now propose to penalise us for leaving it to them rather than running our own pathetic portfolios - an activity for which we have neither the time nor the ability: nor indeed the wealth?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARFITT,
80 Higher Drive,
Purley,
Surrey,
December 30.

Sleepers awake

From the Reverend David A. Huntley
Sir, Professor Ian Fells asks (December 28) whether a longitudinal bunk would not be more sleep-inducing than the present BR sleeper design, in which they are always transverse to the rails.

I have asked myself the same question, especially after riding in trains a lot less smooth than BR's. Lateral movement when one is in a transverse bunk does appear to be less restful.

However, in southeast Asia one may still find sleeping cars of all types: those similar to BR's, as well as the older open bunk layout, and with transverse and longitudinal beds in either style.

After a score of rides in all types, both air-conditioned and not, I have come to the conclusion that sleep in sleeping cars is not a function of travel direction, but of tiredness and that lack of anything on my mind to keep me awake!

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HUNTLEY,
c/o 55 Essenden Road,
South Croydon, Surrey.

Making the most of it

From Commander F. N. Ponsobny, RN
Sir, The anonymous writer of your "Food prices" feature this morning (December 27) alleges "Shepherd's pie... as its name indicates, used to be made from left-over mutton but is now invariably made from minced beef".

Not so! In spite of the near-impossibility of obtaining mutton in this country a perfectly respectable shepherd's pie continues to be made from left-over lamb. The minced beef version should be called cottage pie.

I have the honour, etc,
FRANCIS PONSOBONY,
Lytch Farm Cottage,
Sleep,
Petersfield,
Hampshire,
December 27.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 4 1986
The premiere of this, the third comedy by Oscar Wilde (1868-1900) was attended by the Prince of Wales, who learning afterwards that some of the dialogue may be out of date, "Do not take on a word."

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The departure of Mr. Tree and his company for America leaves the Haymarket Theatre for a brief season in the hands of Messrs. Lewis Walker and H. H. Morrell and these gentlemen have availed themselves of the opportunity to produce a new play by Mr. Oscar Wilde. This, *An Ideal Husband* was brought out last night with a similar degree of success to that which has attended Mr. Wilde's previous productions. It is a similar degree of success due to similar causes. For *An Ideal Husband* is marked by the same characteristics as *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *A Woman of No Importance*. There is a group of well-dressed women and men on the stage, talking a strained, inverted, but rather amusing idiom, while the action, the dramatic motive, of the play springs from a conventional device of the commonplaces of order of melodrama. Mr. Wilde's ingenuity is verbal; there is none of this quality expended upon his plot and very little upon his characters, most of whom have caught their author's trick of phrasing. The central figure of the story, "Ideal husband" himself, is a young and rising politician, one Sir Robert Chiltern, who has become Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with prospects of entering the Cabinet; and the action begins when this politician, and a promising public man, adored by his wife and extolled by the Press as all that is noble and upright in private and public life, falls a victim of blackmail at the hands of an over-dressed adventurer of cosmopolitan experience named Mrs. Cheever.

With the exception of an odd tendency on the part of the dramatic personae to drop the subject in hand and score verbal successes at each other's expense, the story pursues a normal course. Sir Robert is a cynical world-wise man, and Lord Goring who rather bluntnly recalls him to a sense of his duty as a politician. "If you make a clean breast of it," observes this mentor, "you will never be able to talk morality again, and if a man cannot talk morality twice a week to a large assembly of his kind, there is no career for him as a politician; he can only fall back upon botany or the Church...."

To assume that the working out of this somewhat primitive story, which Mr. Wilde must have found rather than imagined, constitutes the interest of *An Ideal Husband* would be doing the play an injustice. The story, which is intended to adorn the commonplace by force of epigram, and this aim he consistently pursues throughout his four acts. "Women discover everything except the obvious"; "Too much rouge and not enough clothes"; "It is always worth while to ask a question, rarely worth while to answer one"; "The pessimists are intolerable people because of the way they wear their hair"; "The modern woman understands everything except her husband"; "Morality is the attitude we adopt towards people we dislike"; "Vulgarity is the behaviour of other people" - such are a few of Mr. Wilde's epigrams, which, as they are distributed at random.

Despite an imposing array of names in the cast, the action is carried on mainly, not to say exclusively, by Mr. Lewis Walker as Sir Robert, Miss Julia Neilson as his wife, Mr. Charles Hayward as Lord Goring, and Miss Phyllis West as Mrs. Cheever, such capable assistants as Miss Fanny Bromph, Miss Vane Featherston, Miss Maude Millett, and Mr. Alfred Bishop fulfilling in the "society" scenes of the piece a purely decorative function. The small part of a manservant is assigned to Mr. Brookfield, who illumines it with unexpected character. Admirably seeing the author and well served by him in return, Mr. Lewis Walker rivets attention upon the part of Sir Robert, which is played in his manliest and most robust style. It is his friend Lord Goring who discharges the best of the verbal fireworks of the piece, and the duty is well performed by Mr. Elworthy.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman
Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played in London's Barbican, Royal Albert, Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Halls, during 1985 shows that Beethoven, who in 1984 lost to Mozart by half a symphony, has taken his revenge. He leads with 62½, the half being two performances of No 7's last movement given at the Barbican by Noel Tredinnick.

Mozart is only one movement behind, with 62. The Dvorak falls to 32.16 of these the "New World". Tchaikovsky scores 29 and, thanks to the LSO Festival, Mahler has gone up from 13½ to 24½ (including three "Blumines" at ½ each and three No 10 Adagios at ½ each).

Haydn is sixth with 21, and equal seventh are Brahms, Schubert and Shostakovich, with 17 apiece. Mendelssohn, as in 1984, is tenth with 13. Sibelius, listed in 1984 with 15, drops to eleventh place, even though I have counted his "Kullervo".

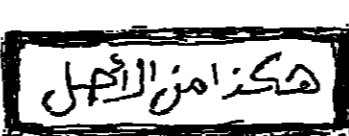
Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 St. Anne's,
Charleywood,
Hertfordshire,
December 28.

Wind in the wires

From Mr Mark Ash
Sir, Down our lane in this country area lived a fellow who acquired a London street lamp (front-gon), stuck bulbs in it, and switched it on at night to illumine his front garden and, presumably, evoke a boyhood memory or two.

Why doesn't Mr Alker (December 27) negotiate with British Telecom for one of their despatching telegraph poles, run wires from it to his nearest tree and ever thereafter, when the wind blows, enjoy his own private moan?

Yours faithfully,
MARK ASH,
Ruddle Hill,
North Gosport,
Near Fordringbridge, Hampshire.



COURT AND SOCIAL

Age of the uncommitted theologian

OBITUARY PROFESSOR JOCELYN TOYNBEE

Princess Anne will attend a dinner and fashion show at Woburn Abbey on February 26 organized by the Horse Trials Support Group.

Beards were pulled over it, men were burnt for it, but now it seems that it is only good for sensational headlines. Is that the role for theology?

teaching of Jesus in communion with the members of his body, the Church, and pondering the wonder of that life which was made manifest and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

Professor Jocelyn Toynbee, FSA, FBA, who died on December 31 at the age of 88, was a distinguished archaeologist and historian of Roman art.

Latest wills Mrs Ethel Grace Gladwell, of Sarnbury on Thames, Middlesex, formerly of Staines, left £13,337 net. She left £9,350 in personal bequests and the residue equally between the NSPCF, RSPCA, Salvation Army, National Trust, Royal British Legion and the Methodist Homes for the Aged.

At the root of this theological bravura is there not a subconscious unwillingness to come into contact with the fullness of Christ? We hear so much about the Christ event and the historical Jesus, but is that almost an excuse to keep one from the impact of the Word of God?

There was no press conference, and little sensationalism to launch the Letters of Ignatius but his theology was the very stuff of his life and death; like the apostles, he could not but speak of what he had seen and heard. As such, it had an incalculable impact on his audience, who gathered up his words as they gathered up his ashes.

Jocelyn Mary Catherine Toynbee was born on March 3, 1897, into a family already notable for its intellectual achievements and social conscience, and which, in her own generation, produced a fraternal trio of historians, her brother Arnold, herself and her sister Margaret.

Birthdays TODAY: Miss Grace Bumbry, 49; Mrs Stella Gibbons, 84; Rosalie Crutchley, 64; Mr Iain Culterhouse, 56; Sir Thomas Ferens, 83; Professor K. J. Hancock, 51; Sir Havlock Hudson, 67; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Chisholm-Hutchison, 83; Sir Leslie Joseph, 78; Professor B. Josephson, 46; the Hon Diana Makgill, 56; Mr T. J. Rex, 52; Sir Thomas Robson, 80; the Earl of Selkirk, 93; Mr Eric E. van Lennep, 93; Dr D. T. Whittey, 71; Major-General Sir Michael Wilkins, 53.

One might imagine a modern version of the parable of the supper in which one author would have his structural analysis to try out, and another would need to attend to his de-mythologization so that they could not come to the banquet of the only begotten Son of God.

The theologian must simply allow the witness of his words to speak from a life which is totally committed to the one of whom he speaks.

She went from there to a lectureship in the University of Reading and returned to Cambridge in 1927 as Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at Newham and Lecturer in Classics in the University, which post she held until her appointment to the Laurence Chair of Archaeology.

Marriages The engagement is announced between Barry, youngest son of Colonel and Mrs M. W. McCorkell of Ballynure, Londonderry, and Lucy, daughter of Dr and Mrs A. Byrne, of Milborne Port, Somerset.

His appointment, in succession to Emma Soames, is a timely one for English letters. In this week's Spectator he writes of "the ghastly quagmire of pomposity, self-importance, humourlessness and boredom into which it is sinking".

Other appointments include: Captain Peter Hunt, head of technical and training flight crew at British Airways, to be head of safety services at British Airways in succession to Captain Jack Jessop.

Her first work was The Hadrianic School: A Chapter in the History of Greek Art (1934) and she followed it with Roman Medallions (1944); Some Notes on Artists in the Roman World (1951); The Shrine of St Peter and the Vatican Excavation (with John Ward Perkins, 1956); The Ravenna Reliefs from the Medusa Relief (with Christian Archaeology, in 1964, and a Fellow of the British Academy.

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Services tomorrow: Second Sunday after Christmas ST BARTHOLOMEW, 2nd-2nd, 11 AM. ST ANDREW, 11 AM. ST JOHN, 11 AM. ST PETER, 11 AM. ST MARY, 11 AM. ST MICHAEL, 11 AM. ST GEORGE, 11 AM. ST MARTIN, 11 AM. ST NICHOLAS, 11 AM. ST DENIS, 11 AM. ST EUSTACE, 11 AM. ST AGATHA, 11 AM. ST BARBARA, 11 AM. ST CATHERINE, 11 AM. ST AGNES, 11 AM. ST ANNE, 11 AM. ST JOSEPH, 11 AM. ST JAMES, 11 AM. ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, 11 AM. ST PETER AND PAUL, 11 AM. ST ANDREW AND PATRICK, 11 AM. ST JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, 11 AM. ST JAMES THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, 11 AM. ST PETER AND PAUL APOSTLES, 11 AM. ST ANDREW AND PATRICK, 11 AM. ST JOHN THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, 11 AM. ST JAMES THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, 11 AM. ST PETER AND PAUL APOSTLES, 11 AM.

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Law Report January 4 1986

Nursing care payment from trust not income

Stevenson (Inspector of Taxes) v Wishart and Others Before Mr Justice Knox [Judgment delivered December 16] Payments totalling £14,250 from the capital of a discretionary trust fund made to meet the cost of nursing care for an elderly beneficiary were not to be treated as income of that beneficiary and so were not chargeable to additional rate income tax.

University news

London Royal Veterinary College £65,000 from the Agricultural and Food Research Council for the purchase of a new building and equipment in the use of a field and experimental station in the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology.

Science report

Nile perch cause ecological disaster

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent An experimental project that went tragically wrong has brought an ecological disaster to the shores of Lake Victoria in East Africa, according to fisheries experts.

SIR JAMES MACKAY

The Right Hon Roy Jenkins, MP, writes: Sir James Mackay, KBE, CB, who died on December 24 at the age of 78, was a powerful and unusual civil servant, one of the last of the group of dons who were brought into Whitehall by the war and preferred the public service to academic life when it was over.

Police powers of entry covered all purposes

Foster v Atard Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan [Judgment delivered December 20] Police officers who entered an unlicensed night club at night time for the sole purpose of detecting offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were there lawfully under the powers of entry conferred by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, notwithstanding that their entry had been effected without a warrant issued under section 23(3) of the 1971 Act.

MR SHUM WAI-YAU

Mr Shum Wai-yau, CBE, one of Hong Kong's oldest and most respected newspapermen, died on December 19, 1985 at the age of 89.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Imperial cries 'foul' as Hanson wades in

Lord Hanson's offer document for Imperial Group demonstrates that his bruising experiences in the American courts have not gone to waste.

Although Imperial's chairman, Geoffrey Kent, expected Hanson to pull no punches in its £1.8 billion attempt to break up the cosy merger between Imps and United Biscuits, he feels this attack is well below the belt.

Imperial's mistakes were far from secret. The four that Hanson chooses to highlight are Howard Johnson, the recent extraction from which loss-making American hotel business left Imperial \$300 million down, and vulnerable to just such an attack as that launched by Hanson.

Imperial could undoubtedly have done better in the past but notional losses are a dangerously fluid concept to try and quantify.

Reserves at danger level

The bunker mentality was well to the fore yesterday as the Treasury reported an underlying fall in the level of reserves of \$401 million, the sharpest drop since December 1982, and double the rate of decline reported in November.

Well, they would say that wouldn't they, snapped the traders, recalling that in days of yore, the Chancellor had been a dedicated opponent of exchange rate intervention.

The situation is not immediately critical but there is evidence of serious deterioration in the level of British official reserves.

assets than they put in, and scope for renegotiation of the terms seems scarce. New Hanson terms must be only a matter of time, though, and a price of closer to 300p, against the value of the current offer of just 240p, is likely.

Maxwell's double and Lazard's treble

Guinness Peat's failure to attract more than a meagre 1.9 per cent acceptance from other than "in house" holders of Britannia Arrow shares is a total defeat for Alastair Morton and the Guinness Peat board which he dominates.

Guinness Peat's lack of impact further strains Mr Morton's credibility and makes Guinness Peat's next move critical but not simple.

Morgan's tigers, whom Christopher Reeves, Morgan's senior keeper has wistfully admitted, may have got out of control are licking their wounds.

Lazard and Schrodes in particular, Lazard, with Neil Mackay leading in the rout of Guinness Peat, must now believe it can mesmerize Morgan.

Allies win battle to block Britannia Arrow takeover

By William Kay, City Editor

Britannia Arrow Holdings, the unit trust and fund management group, yesterday defeated the £280 million takeover bid by Guinness Peat, the merchant banking and insurance group.

Mr Michael Newman, Britannia's chief executive, said: "I am very pleased. The bid was unwanted and inadequate, and now we can look forward to the future with confidence."

Together the Stevens-Maxwell camp bought 26 per cent, compared with the 28 per cent that Guinness had bought from UK Provident Institution and through the market.



Friends and foe: David Stevens (left) and Robert Maxwell vs Alastair Morton (right).

Newman nor Mr Alastair Morton, Guinness Peat's chief executive, would comment on the possibility of a Guinness Peat representative joining the Britannia board.

Lonrho air firm 'shut' by new law

By Patience Wheatcroft

Lonrho has shut its air-freight subsidiary Tradewinds with effect from today. The company says it can no longer operate profitably and it puts much of the blame for its problems on the British Government.

Lonrho's managing director, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland has a long-running dispute with the Government over the decision to disallow his bid for Kios of France whilst not referring the bid from the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers to the Monopolies Commission.

His argument over Trade-winds concerns government legislation which requires aeroplanes to be made much quieter. This process, known as hush-kitting, costs \$2.5 million per aircraft and, claims Tradewinds, puts his operators at a competitive disadvantage against companies which are not required to hush-kit.

Sir Edward du Cann, chairman of Lonrho and Tradewinds, detailed the predicament in Parliament last year.

The company was established in 1968 and was bought by Lonrho in 1977. It operates three Boeing 707 freighters.

The planes operate regular freight services to Nigeria, Sudan, Canada, USA, Muscat and Dubai. These routes have become increasingly competitive recently, and Tradewinds says it is no longer possible to operate profitably.

The need to hush-kit was the last straw which forced Tradewinds into its decision to cease trading today, Lonrho says.

The need to hush-kit came into operation on Wednesday. Overseas companies operating in Britain do not need to hush-kit until 1988.

Property firms call off £19m merger

The agreed £19.7 million merger between Trafford Park Estates and Wingate Property Investments was called off yesterday. The board of Trafford Park Estates decided that since the merger was agreed in October, exceptional factors had emerged which made it no longer in the best interests of shareholders.

It is believed that differences over the future management of Trafford Park Estates are behind the demise of the merger. Mr Stephen Wingate, managing director of Wingate, was widely believed to be the heir apparent to Mr Neil Westbrook, chairman of Trafford Park Estates who is likely to retire soon.

Doubts over £400m Nigerian notes

By Teresa Poole

The Central Bank of Nigeria intends to complete the issue of billions of dollars of promissory notes to short-term trade creditors by the end of June.

A bank spokesman said in Lagos yesterday that the recent budget proposals and the Nigerian government's decision to seek the rescheduling of medium and long-term debt would not hold up the process.

Under an agreement in April, 1984, Chase Manhattan Bank in London has been acting to reconcile the claims of exporters with the records of importers for debts liable before the end of 1983.

The Central Bank of Nigeria is now saying that valid claims will be sorted by the end of March. About 200,000 claims were registered before the closing date, December 31, 1985.

One of the biggest trade creditors is Unilever, with outstanding debts of about £100 million, most of which is insured by the ECGD or covered by promissory notes.

and accordingly has let its offer lapse. On the news Britannia shares fell 3p to 138p. Guinness Peat shares rose 1p to 72p.

Mr Morton immediately congratulated Mr Newman on his defence campaign.

However, Mr Morton added: "Neither would have prevailed if Mr Newman had not produced arguments to persuade Messrs Maxwell and Stevens to commit about £55 million to Britannia. Neither the market nor we have yet been told what persuaded them to do so."

Mr Maxwell, Mr Stevens and other allies together acquired 26 per cent of Britannia's shares, arguing that Guinness Peat's offer was not good enough. The offer was worth 150p a share in equity and loan notes, with a cash alternative of 137p.

Together with the 28 per cent already held, Guinness Peat controlled only 39.6 per cent, cent were held by Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank acting in concert with Guinness Peat, and another 7.8 per cent by companies whose boards include Guinness Peat directors. The remaining acceptances total 1.9 per cent.

£11m buyout of GKN division

By Our City Staff

Guest Keen and Nettelfolds has sold its fasteners division for £11.6 million in a management buyout. GKN will no longer have an interest in one of its founding businesses.

The sale is the latest in a series of divestments. In 1980 the company decided to concentrate on the supply of motor components, the defence industry and industrial services.

A new company, European Industrial Services, is the vehicle for the buyout, and Citicorp Venture Capital has led a syndicate of three equity investors and five banks from four countries.

Five directors and five senior managers are involved in the buyout and the managing director of EIS is Mr John Huband, previously the chief executive of GKN's fasteners division.

In Britain the fasteners division manufactures wood-screws, self-tapping screws and associated products and distributes a wide range of fasteners. EIS is also buying the European subsidiaries.

IN BRIEF

Defection at Nasdim

The first serious defection from one of the City's intended self-regulatory organizations appears likely. The investment manager Foreign and Colonial Management Group is preparing to leave the National Association of Securities Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Foreign and Colonial, responsible for £1.3 billion of funds under management including the £600 million Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, is about to join the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), which intends to represent investment managers and advisers, in the City's new self-regulatory framework.

Mr Kevin Pakenham, managing director of Foreign and Colonial management group, said yesterday: "We are examining the position in the light of forthcoming changes in legislation. It is probable that IMRO will be more suitable for us than Nasdim, but no formal decision has been made."

Market record

Shares, as measured by the FT 30 share index, achieved a new closing peak yesterday. The index finished with an 11.1 point gain at 1,149.6 points. Its previous peak was in November when it reached 1,146.9 points. Stock Market report, Page 13.

Ensign Trust, formerly the Murray Growth Trust, which was acquired by Merchant Navy Officers Pension Investments in September, is subscribing \$8 million (£2.6) to buy 508,000 shares in First Colonial Bankshares of Chicago. Ensign's holding in the bank's enlarged equity will remain at 17.5 per cent.

Kier defence

French Kier, the civil engineering company, has estimated pretax profits of £20.5 million in 1985, a rise of 25 per cent, as part of its defence against the £113 million bid from C H Beazer.

No BHS inquiry

Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer the proposed merger of Habitat Mothercare and British Home Stores to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Baldrige still confident of 4% growth

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday expressed confidence that a falling dollar and declining interest rates plus continued low inflation would produce the 4 per cent growth that the Reagan Administration has forecast for this year.

Confirming that he privately agreed with the forecast, despite predictions by independent economists that growth would be slower than 4 per cent, he said: "We're going to see, as the dollar drops more, which I think it will, an increase in exports beginning about the middle of this year. That's going to add some employment."

"We're going to see, I think, a further decline in interest rates. That's going to mean more jobs and housing. We're going to see inflation stay in roughly the same area (it is now)."

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Includes data for FT 100, Dow Jones, Hang Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, SKA General, and various stock price changes.

Large advertisement for Oppenheimer Europe '86. Text: 'EUROPE '86: From strength to strength.' Includes promotional text about investment in Europe and contact information for Oppenheimer.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E, Gross Div, Yld, P/E. Includes sections for BUILDING AND ROADS, BREWERIES, INDUSTRIALS A-D, and FINANCE AND LAND.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Weekly Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E.

1985 High Low Stock table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes SHORTS (Under Five Years) and FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E.

UNDATED and INDEX-LINKED tables with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E.

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP and ELECTRICALS tables with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares at new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 23. Dealings End, Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes BUILDING AND ROADS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes FINANCE AND LAND section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes FOODS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes CHEMICALS, PLASTICS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes CINEMAS AND TV section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes DRAPERY AND STORES section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes HOTELS AND CATERERS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes INDUSTRIALS A-D section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes SHIPMENT section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes SHOES AND LEATHER section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TEXTILES and TOBACCO sections.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes E-K section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes L-R section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes M-N section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes O-P section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes Q-R section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes S-T section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes U-V section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes W-X section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes Y-Z section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes AA-AD section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes AE section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes OVERSEAS TRADERS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes LEISURE section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes MINING section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000 Claims required for +45 points Claims required for +151 points

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Div, Yld, P/E. Includes TOBACCO section.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar scored widespread gains yesterday as remarks by the governor of Bank of Japan...

WALL STREET

New York (Agency) The market headed higher in active early trading yesterday...

Big rise in sales of cream liqueurs

By Teresa Poole

Cream-based liqueurs for the after-dinner drinker have been one of the alcoholic successes of 1985.

RTZ coup could threaten Britain's oil prosperity

When does an independent oil company become a major oil company? This is the question Lasmo shareholders must ask themselves at the extraordinary meeting on Monday...

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for currency, rate, and date.

WALL STREET table with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes.

OTHER STERLING RATES and DOLLAR SPOT RATES tables.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES table with columns for contract, price, and change.

Better distribution and wider availability has stimulated demand, and it is thought that they are being favoured increasingly by women.

The market for cream-based liqueurs is seasonal and the two months before Christmas saw an aggressive marketing battle among the leading brands.

The clear market leader - and also the world's best selling liqueur - is Baileys Original Irish Cream...

Baileys holds between 60 and 70 per cent of the British market.

According to the Victoria Wine Company, sales at 800 outlets of cream-based liqueurs as a whole were up by 15 per cent over the Christmas period.

Baileys faces competition from both ends of the market. It typically retails for £5.79 for a bottle while the Allied-Lyons brands, which use British wine as a base, are up to £1.60 a bottle cheaper.

In the run-up to Christmas Allied-Lyons spent £700,000 on television advertising alone for the rum and coconut-flavoured Bechambrer and the whisky and Devon cream Country Satin combination.

At the top end of the market is Creme de Grand Marnier, a cream-based version of the torpedoes.

At the bottom end of the market is the imported and distributed by United Rum Merchants, another Allied-Lyons subsidiary.

Baileys launched its new advertising campaign two months ago and claims that 1985 has been the best year for a long time, with sales 20 per cent above the previous year.

Both the Canadian and US offshoots are now 80 per cent dominated by independent companies which have thrived

since the majors relinquished their early dominance. Unfortunately for investors, this important long-term objective will not square with their short-term performance measures.

The deal has been widely acknowledged as a coup for RTZ, but there must be lingering doubts about whether this is the best way for the independent oil sector to undergo its much-needed and painful rationalization.

Tumbling oil prices and market sentiment have ensured that this pain must be endured but the emergence of RTZ as the purveyor of rationalization strategies may not be the long run result in the strong and vibrant independent sector which is essential for the long-term prosperity of the British oil industry.

If the deal goes through, and the proxy voting to date suggests that it will, RTZ will have an interest directly or indirectly in varying degrees in Lasmo, Tricentrol and Enterprise, which has itself already snapped up Saxon Oil.

These factors will be reflected in the equity market. Companies with a large exposure to retail property will show better than average growth in net asset value, as

will those with portfolios weighted to city offices and office space along the M4.

But these few spots will not be enough to prevent property shares overall falling behind. Performance will be depressed by falling values in company portfolios with ageing industrial and office space in a myriad of locations away from the prosperous South-east.

Property shares

Last year saw property share brokers crying into their silk handkerchiefs. There were few takers for property shares in a bullish market which broke new records almost daily.

The rise in the rest of the equity market made property stocks look even less attractive last year, but will this continue into 1986? The indications are that there will be a bear market this year, a factor which will help property equities.

Certain areas of the direct property market such as a distinct improvement last year which will continue into 1986. Notable were the City office market, felled by the coming big bang and the growth of the financial conglomerates hungry for space, and the retail sector.

As a result, Ultramar will at least be able to pay the interest charges on the cost of its purchase and stabilize its margins on its refining production in Canada. Ultramar shares rose 7p to 205p.

Lasmo shares drifted 5p lower to 235p as the market began to give up hope of a bid for the group before the extraordinary meeting on Monday. This is expected to confirm the swap of share stakes to leave Rio Tinto-Zinc with a 25 per cent holding in Lasmo, a holding which cannot

speculation that Dr Ashraf Marwan, the Egyptian financier, is increasing his shareholding in Exel, the communications group, sent the shares 14p higher to 330p yesterday. Dr Marwan has been a persistent fan of Exel and his last declared shareholding was 8.2 per cent.

be increased above 29 per cent in the next two years unless a rival bidder appears.

The City had been hoping to see someone such as Broken Hill Proprietary step in with an offer for Lasmo, but any contender looks to be leaving it rather late.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues with columns for company, price, and change.

COMPANY NEWS

BET: United Transport International, a subsidiary of BET, has bought Consolidated Bulk Liquid Transport of West Yorkshire for cash.

PIONEER MUTUAL INSURANCE: The company has bought Edward Jackson Estate Agents, based at Omsnick, Lancashire.

SANGERS PHOTO-GRAFTEC: The cash offer by Mr R. Payne's capital has not received any acceptance.

French Kier

French Kier's defence document against C H Beazer's £113 million bid pushed its shares up 4p to 268p, putting it even further up of Beazer's reach. Beazer's share and cash offer values Kier shares at only 230p, but the City reckons that Beazer will have to pay at least 270p to win the day.

Net asset value, which includes revaluations of completed developments and profits expected to fall in 1986 from contracts already completed, is put at 246p per share.

Beazer objects to the shareholding to strip the final dividend payment out of the net assets, but Kier counters that its assets estimate is designed to show what Beazer should pay.

Although the 1985 profits estimate may have been flattered by a high level of overseas civil engineering completions, Kier still has plenty of work on its order book.

Beazer, which has no experience of international construction, wants Kier as a cash generator and a cyclical offset to its housebuilding activities. A sensible strategic move for Beazer, but there is nothing in it for Kier at the present price. Kier shareholders should sit tight.

Defence orders spark electricals

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

A record-breaking market and orders from the military gave a boost to electrical shares yesterday, helping General Electric Company and Lucas Industries to lead in particular to march ahead.

GEC was already in favour after this week's news of a £250 million order from China for power station equipment and yesterday's confirmation of £400 million worth of work on Stingray torpedoes kept the price bubbling.

Lucas rose 15p to 178p, while Lucas rose a firm favourite in the City, having been lifted by brokers' recommendations and bid hopes over the past few months.

But there is more to come for GEC. Analysts confidently expect another big order for the next few months, this time from the Middle East. Talk in the City suggests GEC will complete its hat-trick with a near £450 million contract for communications equipment.

News that Wood Mackenzie, the broker, is putting GEC firmly back on its buy list is also likely to push the share price higher still. Those investors who have been hoping to see the shares climb back above 200p - last seen in early 1985 - may not have long to wait.

Racal Electronics was also well-favoured yesterday, although dealers were sceptical about the reasons for the 10p price rise to 172p. Results are due from the groups at the end of this month, and some market

men reckon the price is merely having its annual run ahead of the figures and will fall back in the next account. Few analysts expect the results to be good, though there is hope that Racal will have news of significant progress for cellular radio business.

Mr Maurice Fullerton, who lost a power battle at Windsor Securities, the insurance group, last year, has emerged as chairman of the troubled catering equipment group, Associated Energy Services. He replaces Mr Paul Howlett who, it was announced on Monday, sold 36.1 per cent of the capital at 11p a share.

There were gains of a few pence for second-line electrical shares such as Diploma, First Castle Electronics, and UEL. Crystallite Holdings was also a penny or two better, despite the sad news of the death of its chairman Mr John Leworthy who led the group through its takeover of Royal Worcester just over two years ago.

The general tone of the stock market was bullish, as though there is still another week to go in this three-week account. Trading volume remained subdued. The FT 30-share index pushed 11.1 points higher to a new closing peak of 1149.6.

The FT-SE 100 share index is 15p higher from its record high of 1455.5, reached last November, and yesterday stood at 1429.8, up 9.3 points on the day.

Oil prices did not help the pound, although expectations that President Reagan will send a US support fleet to the Middle East in case of clashes between Israel and Libya provoked hopes of higher prices. Libya produces about 1 million barrels a day of oil and any interruption to its production will cause a short-term shortage of supply.

Pennies were added to the prices of British Petroleum, Britoil, Burmah and Shell, but there were also small losses among second-line issues. Speculative buying brought movement for certain other oil shares.

Ultramar responded to this week's confirmation that it has won control of the Gulf marketing and refining operation in Canada. The deal, which is worth Can\$150 million, means that Ultramar can close the Gulf refinery in Montreal and keep open its own plant in Quebec province.

As a result, Ultramar will at least be able to pay the interest charges on the cost of its purchase and stabilize its margins on its refining production in Canada. Ultramar shares rose 7p to 205p.

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MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Trading continued quiet yesterday. Period rates showed some firming as the pound retreated with other leading currencies in favour of the dollar.

The overnight rate, opening at 11 1/2 per cent, slipped to 11 1/8 per cent. It slipped again to 10 1/2-10 per cent during lunch before rising in response to conditions.

Interbank rates showed increases of 1/8 between the three-month rate or even 1/4 in the lower dates.

Starting certificates as deposit firmed 1/8 per cent.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Local Authority Deposits %

Local Authority Bonds %

Starting City %

TREASURY BILL TENDER

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for company, price, and change.

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COMMODITIES

Table of commodities with columns for item, price, and change.

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APPOINTMENTS

Simmons & Simmons: Mr George J. Lister, Mr Simon Morgan, Mr Iain Cullen and Mr Martin Smith have been made partners.

Morgan Grenfell Luzzini: Mr David Elovitz joins the board. National Nuclear Corporation: Mr Fraser Ashman becomes an associate director.

UK and Republic of Ireland LMR Advisory Committee: Mr John Fisan has been made chairman. Mr John Dixon is senior deputy chairman and Mr John Phillips is junior deputy chairman.

British Aerospace: Mr Peter Brighton has been appointed managing director of British Aerospace Electronic Systems and Equipment Division. Bracknell. He succeeds Mr D. S. Barnes.

Gencor (UK): Mr L. C. Gray has been appointed managing director. The Institute of Public Relations: Miss Carol Friend has been elected president.

Telephone Remials: Mr Peter Hoole, Mr B. Bevan, Mr M. Morgan, Mr Iain Cullen and Mr Martin Smith have been made partners.

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Telephone Remials: Mr Peter Hoole, Mr B. Bevan, Mr M. Morgan, Mr Iain Cullen and Mr Martin Smith have been made partners.

Morgan Grenfell Luzzini: Mr David Elovitz joins the board. National Nuclear Corporation: Mr Fraser Ashman becomes an associate director.

UK and Republic of Ireland LMR Advisory Committee: Mr John Fisan has been made chairman. Mr John Dixon is senior deputy chairman and Mr John Phillips is junior deputy chairman.

Take stock to share in the good times

INVESTMENT

As the New Year comes in investors will probably remember 1985 best for the scandals in the City - Lloyd's, Johnson Matthey and the like - and for the recently published Financial Services Bill, the implications of which will take many months to digest.

Home owners with mortgages, and borrowers generally, are more likely to associate 1985 with the highest interest rates in real terms for years, and the squeeze that put on their disposable income.

Conversely, 1985 will be remembered with a warm glow by building society and bank savers who received a real return on their investment as well as anyone fully invested in stock markets around the world where so many new highs were achieved.

But what of 1986? Already the pundits are nervous about the continued strength of the bull market in Britain. The fizz frothing over in the past two months of the year has reinforced the pessimists' view that the autumn stock market excitement was only the last flourish before a bear market.

Howard Flight, among others, says: "Anyone anticipating the 'peaking out', as the currency dealers put it, of the US dollar in 1985, should have made a fat capital gain. After a nail-biting first quarter when sterling was shot to pieces, its subsequent recovery looks reasonably secure."

Mr Flight, who runs Guinness Mahon's managed currency funds, reckons that the Group of Five meeting last September will be viewed as a

major watershed for currencies. Governments agreed to intervene on exchange markets to try to iron out some of the wilder fluctuations of the 1980s.

"Since then, everything has gone as the Group of Five could have wished. The dollar is being rerated downwards, though it is still too high against the major currencies apart from sterling," says Mr Flight.

He feels that the yen and the Deutschmark must appreciate against the dollar further, by between 20 and 30 per cent this year if, among other things, US exports are to become sufficiently competitive.

He thinks that sterling is potentially the most volatile major currency because of declining oil prices. Nevertheless, he is optimistic that it should hold around the \$1.40 to \$1.50 level.

He says: "I think 1986 will be the year of the soft landing for the UK and US. They'll sort out their deficit and I think the oil price vulnerability won't have the impact you might think on our economy."

Mr Flight is backing the yen and the Deutschmark this year. He would advise switching into these currencies or going for a unit trust investing in these currency areas.

But he adds: "We remain keen on an investor's funds being in a basket of currencies. So many buy sterling because it is the easiest thing to do."

The view on interest rates is split between those who do not expect much of a decline and

A backing for the yen and mark

those who think a gentle dropping-off of rates is likely.

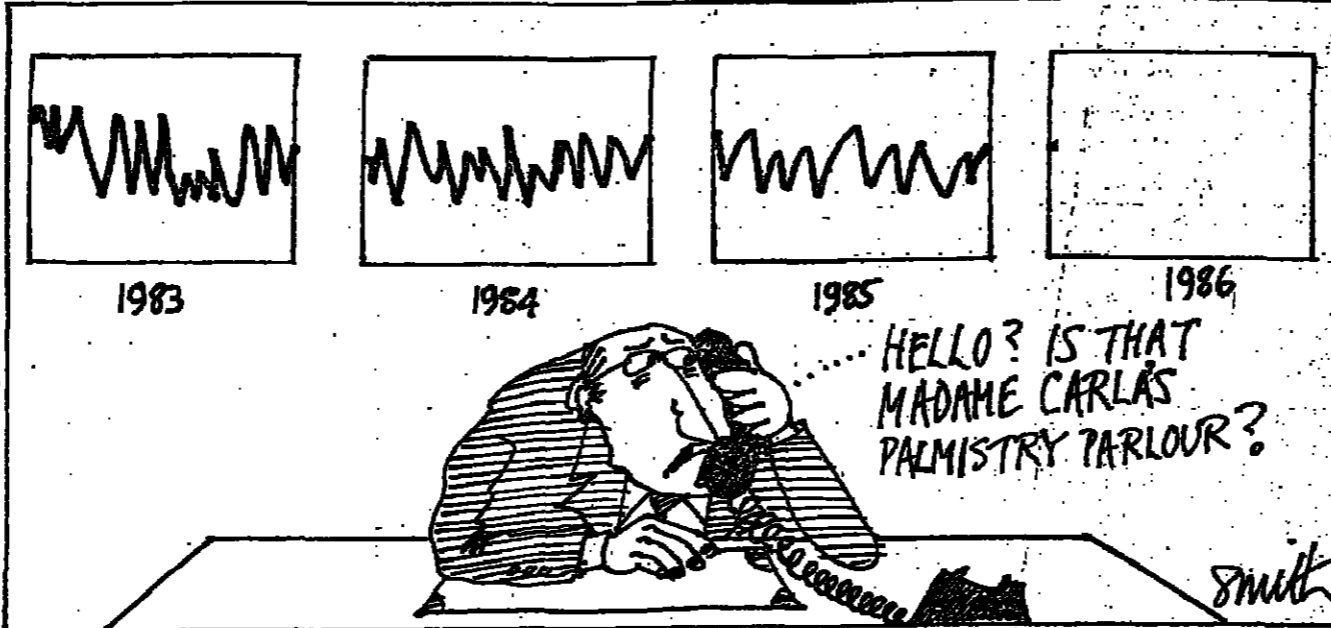
Anthony Bolton, investment director of Fidelity International, is one of the optimists, though he reckons: "They'll come down less fast than one would expect as the Government's fiscal policy now amounts to the control of interest rates."

Tony Gordon, founder partner of Bristol-based insurance brokers Redcliffe Associates, sums up the view with no frills: "Interest rates have to ease some time this year, if this Government hasn't goofed entirely."

Tim Melville-Ross, chief general manager of the Nationwide Building Society, feels an underlying confidence that rates must drop. "I'd dearly like to see them come down substantially this year, but the evidence is sadly lacking at the moment," he says on a note of caution.

"There is the oil price, and the Government's desire for low wage settlements is so strong that it looks prepared to squeeze corporate liquidity with high rates."

David Ritchie, assistant general manager at Scottish Widows, is taking a cautious line - he does not think interest



rates will fall away this year and, likewise, he feels gilts will not rise much above current levels.

Not much that happened in 1985 surprised Philip Gray, managing director of GT Management UK, except the under-performance of gilts. "Gilts were distinctive in not going to plan," he says. But he feels gilts must appreciate this year as they are very much "an investment anomaly - lagging behind equities."

While Mr Gray is pretty bullish about 1986 investment prospects worldwide, Touche Renmant's assistant investment manager, Paul Manduca, is a firm fence-sitter on the UK market. He does not foresee a swinging bear market but he does not expect more than a 30-point-plus gain on the All-Share Index. He reckons Wall Street will be the best market this year.

Japan gets a general thumbs down, though Mr Ritchie says: "We are beginning to look at Japanese technology stocks again after a poor two years."

Mr Bolton takes an original line on 1986: "We're bullish about the UK market for the first part of the year. We don't agree with the pessimists about a bear market yet. These things

always take longer to set in than one thinks."

His advice is to remain fully invested but to take stock after a few months into the year, as then the ifs and buts about government policy, corporate profits, even the next election, will begin to come to the fore.

Mr Gordon, in line with his bear view on interest rates, is advising clients to tilt gilts this year. "It very much

More attracted to overseas markets

depends on an individual's portfolio of course, but for short-term gain I recommend gilts. I'd suggest either investing in a gilts unit trust or an insurance fund with a gilts weighting."

Along with many other fund managers, Edinburgh-based Scottish Widows was underinvested in UK equities last year until around mid-summer. Mr Ritchie, who is involved in managing the UK's largest single pooled pension fund, worth about £1,600 million, is restrained again this year.

He says: "Some of the froth has already been taken-off the market and maybe there's a bit more to go. I think it would be unlikely if we saw much of an increase in the All-Share after two good years."

"We're happy staying with the spread we've got (50 per cent in the UK) and run with the markets."

Mr Ritchie is marginally more attracted to overseas markets (20 per cent overseas), and in Europe and the United States rather than the Far East.

Mr Bolton is directing clients into the UK stock market short term, and he remains happy

Keep cash ready for the big deals

The first few weeks of 1986 are as good a time as any for reviewing your finances, and the new year brings a number of changes which are important to investors.

With several new privatizations in the pipeline for 1986 - British Gas, British Airways, Royal Ordnance and possibly the Trustee Savings Bank - your first requirement is to keep cash ready.

That means a building society or high-interest cheque account, as many plastic cards as you can service, or filling all these, the ability to draw on a negotiated overdraft.

Argue for the best deal you can get. This might even include approaching a bank manager who has gone to a new branch and with whom you were on better terms than you appear to be with your present one.

After ensuring the availability of cash for "bargains", which could include new issues, analyse your objectives in the light of current tax legislation. There are four important changes which come into effect in 1986.

First comes the full abolition of bond washing for portfolios with a nominal (or face) value of more than £5,000 from February 28. If your gilt or fixed interest stocks do not exceed this amount, any gains you make on sale or maturity after that date will still be classed as capital gain and not subject to the accrued (taxable) income rules.

Second, if you have local authority bonds in your portfolio and are a basic rate taxpayer, your interest payments on the bonds rise from April 1986.

From that date, interest will be paid, like building society interest, after composite rate tax has been deducted at 25 per cent. Also as with building societies, any tax paid cannot be reclaimed, so non-taxpayers should no longer invest in local authority bonds, but go for National Savings in its various forms - NSB Investment Account, Income and Deposit Bonds, and gilts through the National Savings Stock Register.

These all pay interest or dividends gross, without deduction of basic rate tax. Alternatively, you can put your money offshore in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. All the high street banks have Channel

Islands or offshore subsidiaries offering high interest or money market accounts.

● A third change beginning in 1986 is that all building societies must make returns to the Inland Revenue of the net interest paid or credited to savers where that amount exceeds £2,000 annually (£400 at the high street banks). This limit applies only to 1986-87 and may be altered thereafter. The idea is for easier computation of the composite tax.

● The fourth change applies to gilts and qualifying corporate bonds. From July 2, disposal of all such securities will be entirely free of capital gains tax up to the annual (£5,900) and will no longer have to be held for more than a year to qualify for this exemption.

Qualifying corporate bonds are defined in Section 64 of the 1984 Finance Act, which refers to Section 82 (3) (b) and

Have a fallback in case of emergency

"Includes any loan stock or similar security whether of the United Kingdom or of any other Government or of any public or local authority in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, or of any company whether secured or unsecured."

Examples are Birmingham 11.5 per cent 2012 (local authority stock), BAT 12.5 per cent 2003-08 (corporate loan stock), New Zealand 11.5 per cent 2014 (quoted "bulldog").

They are bought through stockbrokers with the commission charged on corporation stock as debentures (0.9 per cent on the first £5,000, 0.45 per cent on the next £4,500) but payable on settlement day while local authorities stock (charged as short gilts 0.8 per cent on the first £2,500, 0.125 per cent on the next £15,000) is payable as a cash transaction.

With these four changes in mind, the investment strategy for 1986 would appear to be as follows: the introduction of a gilt or fixed interest element into your portfolio to get any tax-free capital gain there may be around; always to have a fallback of cash, not only for the odd emergency but for new issues and other "bargains", and, as the last refuge for the non-taxpayers, to take up one of the National Savings offerings.

Jennie Hawthorne

The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL

With over eight hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Income DIVIDEND FUND				
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested in Income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	-	-	£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	908*	65,160	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 10% above the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with net income reinvested.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,217	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	55,248	40,168

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 29-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	78,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,941	78,588

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1986 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION (INCOME) units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (per £1,000)	£	00
DIVIDEND (per £1,000)	£	00
SECOND (per £1,000)	£	00

Signature: _____
Date: _____

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CALLFREE 0800 414161

Fidelity INTERNATIONAL

FAMILY MONEY/2

Protection package that eases the cost of family travelling

A "roving" holiday insurance policy was launched this week, and is available for practically any holiday you book. It is called The Travel Protection Plan 1986, and it provides more or less standard levels of cover.

We compared it to the policy recommended by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) which is called Supersure Plus. ABTA's policy generally works out cheaper for adults, but the 50 per cent reduction in premiums for children under 16 offered by the Travel Protection Plan 1986 means that families should generally get cheaper cover with the new policy.

TPP provides adequate medical expense cover of up to £500,000, but in common with almost all package insurance policies the baggage and personal effects cover is limited. With TPP you get overall cover of £800 and a single item limit of £200 (Supersure Plus provides cover of £750 and £250, respectively). But do watch out for the fact that the small print lists a whole host of items - such as jewellery, watches, cameras, for example, where the maximum payout for loss or damage to all of these items collectively is limited to £200.

If you are taking valuable items away with you check to see that they are adequately covered - generally either through individual insurance or the all-risk section of your household policy. Holiday package policies alone are inadequate.

The Travel Protection Plan 1986 is available through some, but not all, travel agents and direct from the brokers Crispin Speers and Partners, 41 Crutched Friars, London EC3 (Tel: 01-480 5083).

Glittering trio from the Britannia

Britannia Building Society has announced changes in some of its higher interest earning accounts. The old 7-day and 60-day notice accounts and the 1-year term share account will close on January 11. They are to be replaced on January 15 by three instant access Gold accounts offering slightly better interest for higher minimum investments.

The best of the three will be Trident Super Gold, offering a net rate of 9.2 per cent on a minimum balance of £10,000. The best rate offered from the accounts being closed was 8.5 per cent. However, the minimum balance required was only £500.

Investors with only £250 to £500 will not benefit from the change - the new Trident Gold account will offer them the same 9.25 per cent as holders of the 7-day account enjoy. But if you have a large investment in

MAY I REMIND YOU, PORTHURP, GABLEDECOCK IS NOT A KNIGHTLY GOLF LANGUAGE...



We recently praised the Halifax for producing some information leaflets in minority group languages. Bradford and Bingley Building Society has reminded us that it has been producing one in a number of Asian languages since June 1984, and the list of languages available includes Welsh.

any of these accounts you should consider moving to Super Gold - funds are not transferred automatically in cases like this.

The name's bond...

Fixed income at a time of little or no inflation has its charms for those dependent on income from investments to pay the bills. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and. Lunn Poly has been running holiday credit arrangements for some time. The latest scheme from the Ileson Consumer Co-operative Society looks a bad buy.

Hot for holiday cash

Times are certainly changing. Years ago we used to save regularly in a building society account to raise money for holidays. But the competition for our money is hotting up, and while Thomas Cook and Lunn Poly have been running holiday credit arrangements for some time, the latest scheme from the Ileson Consumer Co-operative Society looks a bad buy. Your borrowing limit with the Ileson is a multiple of ten times the amount you choose to repay each month, but the

Interest rate of 2.25 per cent per month works out to an APR of 30.6 per cent - higher than Access or Visa and on a par with some of the "in house" credit cards.

Healthy bonus rate

A healthy increase in terminal bonus rates was announced this week by the General Accident Life Assurance. The new rate is 15 per cent up, at 70 per cent of attaching bonuses for post-1981 life policies, compared with 55 per cent announced by the company at the end of last year. Pension policy rates are increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent for the same period, while increases of up to 53 per cent were seen on some pre-1982 life policies.

Norman Graham, general manager of General Accident Life, says "fine investment performance" enables the company to declare the increased bonuses combined with "the exceptional strength of our reserves".

BES at a glance

The BES Magazine in its January issue includes some useful pages on certain details and ramifications of the relevant BES legislation. Editor John Harrison says he hopes "this will stimulate further evaluation of the merits and also certain shortcomings which still make the BES less effective than it deserves to be".

If you want to take out a subscription to the magazine it will cost you £48 a year for 12 issues. It has the merit of providing detailed summaries of a broad range of BES issues. However, the magazine judges on the issues to date, rarely contains direct criticism of particular BES issues where it is merited. If you do not tell us directly which BES issues you should avoid, details from the publishers, Private Investor Publications, 1-3 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AA (Tel: 01-808 1036).

Aitken's new banner

For Aitken Hume read Sentinel. This is the message for those unit trusts and other funds managed under the banner of Aitken Hume Funds Management. These in future will bear the name Sentinel, reflecting the acquisition of the Sentinel Insurance Company in November 1985 by Aitken Hume.

Two of the unit trusts in this stable are broadening out - to make these funds less "speculative" - the American Technology and the Japanese Technology trusts are being given a "and General" suffix to reflect the wider outlook that the trusts will take.

A 1 per cent discount on all the unit trusts is offered "to mark the occasion of the name change". Potential investors should bear in mind, however, that none of the Aitken Hume unit trusts reached the top ten of any sector, according to the one year figures we published last week.

The consumers' banker

If you have a complaint against a bank which you cannot resolve, even at head office level, then the Banking Ombudsman, Ian Edwards-Jones QC, may be the man for you. The Office of the Banking Ombudsman became operational this week and will investigate complaints from individuals concerning the provision of personal banking services by a number of banks.

Bear in mind that it is really only fresh complaints - those arising on or after January 1, 1986 - that the Banking Ombudsman will consider, and you must have tried your complaint at the bank's head office before turning to the Ombudsman.

Details, including advice on whether you fall within the scheme, from The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5/11 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1BR.



Edwards-Jones: Advice you can bank on

Cannon takes aim

A new participant in the mortgage market has emerged in the form of Cannon Assurance, which is offering mortgages of between £15,000 to £130,000 at 12.75 per cent (APR 13.6 per cent). No differentials or arrangement fees, and loans will be up to 95 per cent of the property's valuation in certain cases. The new mortgage business is being carried out by CL Mortgage and further details are available from CL at 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0NB.

Winners poste haste

Now that the closing date for entries to the £2,500 Times-488 Second Young Financial Writer of the Year Competition has passed, our judges can get down to the serious task of reading and evaluating your entries. Incidentally, as a concession to the vagaries of the Christmas post we have decided to accept receipt of entries bearing a Post Office frank dated on or before December 31. The date of publication of the winning entries will be announced shortly.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any shares

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Nationwide Building Society

(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)

Placing of £20,000,000 12 per cent Bonds due 12th January 1987

Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Extel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 7th January 1986 and until 20th January 1986 from:-

Fulton Packshaw Ltd., 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JT	Laurie, Milbank & Co., Portland House, 72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP	Rowe & Pitman, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA
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4th January 1986

Trusts with tax pitfalls

From M. A. Truman, *The Crossways, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex*

I have followed with interest the various references to inheritance trust CTT schemes in recent issues of Family Money, since as a tax adviser I have grown increasingly worried about the number of clients who are sold these schemes when they may be completely inappropriate to their circumstances.

As an experiment, I asked half a dozen organisations purporting to offer CTT planning advice at the recent Money Exhibition what they would suggest for a widow who had inherited a substantial portfolio of blue-chip shares in the mid-1960s and had held on to them ever since.

Almost without exception these advisers, including very well-known merchant banks and life assurance companies, suggested an inheritance trust or the discounted gift scheme, whereas in fact the Capital Gains Tax payable on such a portfolio in the going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

It is also worrying how many people believe these schemes to be "free", compared with professional advisers who charge for their services. However, as your article on December 7 pointed out, the actual value of the units allocated to the scheme is generally some 5 per cent less than the cash invested - how else could the companies pay the commissions they do?

The cost of setting up an appropriate discretionary trust, followed by the client's own circumstances, and giving rise to a Capital Gains Tax charge, and with no risk of Revenue challenge, is likely to be less for any transfer of more than £40,000 and if the transfer is much less it is probably cheaper to simply make use of annual exemptions and gift the cash or shares outright.

My understanding of the Revenue's position is that they are in a rather leisurely manner, taking some of the earlier and least acceptable of the schemes to the Special Commissioners, and then probably on to court.

The danger is that, in giving judgment on the more dubious schemes, the courts will make pronouncements that also affect the schemes still being marketed.

Estates which have already been agreed are unlikely to be reopened, but the estates of those who die after any such judicial pronouncement will be decided in accordance with it, even though the scheme may have been effected several years ago.

Anyone who thinks that the Revenue would not be so unfair should talk to the unfortunate purchasers of Capital Gains Tax schemes in the mid-1970s, who now find that after the Ramsay and Furniss decisions their capital losses are not worth the paper they were manufactured on, and all they have left is the hole in their bank account made by the very substantial fees that the scheme's promoters charged them.

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When you're investing for international growth, an international perspective gives you the edge.

Finding an international growth trust that promises you the earth isn't difficult. Finding one that delivers, is. Successful international investment isn't as simple as some people seem to think. It demands more than just good intentions and impressive promises - it calls for on-the-spot contacts in the world's most important financial centres, round-the-clock market information and the ability to recognise and grasp the best opportunities as they arise.

It calls for the breadth of international contacts and the depth of worldwide resources that the new Global Growth Trust from Scimitar offers.

There's nothing dramatically different about the aim of the trust: to achieve high and increasing capital growth by investing in a carefully-selected portfolio of top-performing international stocks and shares.

So what makes it so special? Scimitar does. As the new investment management division of The Standard Chartered Group, Scimitar is backed by the experience and expertise of one of the largest, most successful and broad-based financial institutions in the world - with access to a global network of resources other unit trust managers dream about.

Scimitar has also managed to attract some of the most talented and respected professionals in the business to its fund management team - and the result is an opportunity that no serious investor can afford to ignore.

In a unit trust the price of units can go down as well as up. But with Scimitar's contacts, experience and outlook behind you, investing in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust could prove to be one of the most profitable moves you've ever made.

Sharpen up your investment prospects today - complete and return the coupon now.

General Information
Contract notes will be issued by return. Certificates will be issued approximately 4 weeks later. After 17th January 1986 the daily prices and yield will be published in leading national newspapers. Managers Scimitar Asset Management Limited. Trustee: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+ VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change.
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We wish to invest £ (minimum investment £500) in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust Income/accumulation units* at the launch price of 25p per unit, which will include a bonus of 1% extra units for the launch period, which runs from 28th December 1985 until 17th January 1986. Please make cheques payable to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.
Post to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3AD. Telephone: 01-623 5776/5763. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Details of all applicants. (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
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First names: (in full) _____
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OFFER CLOSES LATEST JANUARY 15

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table containing unit linked insurance investments with columns for fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

As it invests... the Matt... which... He... pages... are... 1985... rates... the s... disp... Co... come... by... s... aver... well... stock... when... achie... Bu... the... p... the... from... mont... infor... that... excite... flour... He... says... peak... in 19... capit... first... shot... roov... cure... Mr... n... ness... Group... Septe...

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FAMILY MONEY/3

How to uncork a bargain

WINES

Much greater selectivity is required in the wine-investment market this year because of the large stocks of fine wine that have been attracted to the market, but which are not matched by current demand.

American investors, with big portfolios of quality claret, conscious of the lower value of the US dollar, have even been sending wines back across the Atlantic for sale.

The year ended on a high note for Christie's, not only through selling on December 5 a bottle of 1787 "Lafite" engraved with Thomas Jefferson's initials, which at £105,000 made a world record for a single bottle of wine. UK sales for Christie's are up 32 per cent at £6.5 million, compared with £4.9 million in 1984. Its world wine sales amounted to more than £8.28 million (£6.07 million in 1984). Only 8 per cent of lots failed to meet reserve.

Christie's held 43 sales in the UK, including two in Scotland, and nine overseas. The value of the average lot has risen by 29 per cent, from £289 to £373.

Sotheby's wine department held 23 sales including two in Sussex and one in Chester, at a sale value of £2.48 million (down from 1984's £2.98 million).

David Molynoux-Berry, master of wine and head of Sotheby's wine side, says prices have stabilized over the past few months, "creating a good opportunity to stock up". In its sale on January 22, there are several quality 1970 parcels of note such as 15 dozen bottles of Chateau Latour, 32 dozen bottles of Chateau Mouton-



Taste of perfection: Duncan McEwen of Christie's and some classic vintages

Rochet, Petrus and Pontet are overpriced.

The strengthening price of Ansonie is confirmed by the demand for 1982 clarets in general. Duncan McEwen of Christie's says, "St Emilion and Pomerol have spearheaded the demand for particularly fashionable chateaux such as La Consellante and La Fleur-Treme. In fact, Ansonie 1982 sold for £1,050 for six magnums recently and jumped in the last fortnight to £3,500 for three double magnums.

Growing demand for the 1982 clarets

Rothschild both estimated as in the £600-£750 range compared to £200 and £780 respectively a year ago and 10 dozen bottles of Chateau Palmer at £500-£600.

Michael Egan, also of Sotheby's, says 1970 clarets are not likely to slip further in price. He says that among the Bordeaux estates that are undervalued in their good vintages are Ansonie, (substantially below Cheval-Blanc, a fellow "first great growth" of the St Emilion district), Pape-Clément from the Pessac district, of Graves, and most of the third and fourth growths. Mr Egan says Lafon-

vintages like 1971, 1975 and 1976 are "in a vacuum" awaiting several years more maturity.

White-burgundy has been a star of the auction room and looks set to continue, particularly for 1982 and 1983 vintages. Look for top Meursault, Corton-Charlemagne and both Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet.

The '70s ports will show biggest rise

Rhône and Madeira are both moving into prominence. Only a short time ago merchants were offering Hermitage La Chapelle 1983 for around £80, but it sold at Christie's on November 26 for £340. Fine Côte-Rôtie (like Guigal) and white Rhône (such as Condrieu) look likely to outperform the market. Dated Solera and fine vintage Madeira are attracting similar attention.

The vintage port market is steady. The 1983 is firm at about £320 a case and should be held. The 1966 is popular and short on stocks. Mr McEwen

says "The 1967 is good and underrated." Like the forward 1958, the 1975 ports are already drinking well and likely to appreciate through restaurateur demand. Yet the 1960s have lost appeal, moving to a disappointing £220-£240 a dozen bottle level.

The major 1986 rise in vintage port will surely be in the 1970s (now about £200) and the 1977s. It is well worth comparing merchants' lists pre-Budget with the salerooms and a good idea for the New Year is to take out annual subscriptions for the leading houses' lists such as Sotheby's at £29 and Christie's at £38.

Because wine investors find it difficult on time to attend both the tastings of stock the day before and the sale itself, Christie's has made a welcome change in its arrangements. From January it will hold its pre-sale tastings immediately before the auction. Its first one will be of Bordeaux wines on January 16 with a tasting from 9.45 am to 10.45 am for an 11 am sale start.

Conal Gregory

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - seven days, notice required for withdrawals.

Barclays 5.75 per cent, Lloyds 5.75 per cent, Midland 5.75 per cent, NatWest 5.75 per cent, National Girobank 6 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 8.125 per cent, 3 months 8.125 per cent, 6 months 8.125 per cent; National Westminster, 1 month 7.85 per cent, 3 months 7.75 per cent, 6 months 7.65 per cent; Midland. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Net	GNAR	Telephone
Alison Home Monthly Inc.	8.22	8.57	01 638 8070
B of Scotland	8.22	8.53	01 628 6060
Barclays Higher Rate Deposit Account	8.37	8.64	01 629 1567
£10,000-£9,999	8.62	8.90	01 629 1567
£10,000 & over	8.08	8.33	01 588 2777
Chiltern Money Mkt. Plus	8.11	8.50	01 748 9251
HFC Trust 7 day	8.60	8.78	01 236 6391
Investment Money Market	8.22	8.59	01 638 5757
Cheque Account	8.25	8.51	01 628 4588
Lloyds HCA	8.22	8.51	01 629 4588
M & G HCA	8.00	8.24	07 42 20999
Midland HCA	8.30	8.56	07 42 20999
£2,000-£9,999	8.30	8.56	07 42 20999
£10,000 & over	8.30	8.56	07 42 20999
Nat West Special Interest	8.37	8.64	01 726 1000
Reserve £2,000 to £9,999	8.62	8.91	01 726 1000
£10,000 & over	8.62	8.91	01 726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Management	8.22	8.48	01 236 8382
June £10,000	8.31	8.55	01 236 8382
Oppenheimer M.M.	8.10	8.43	0703 89966
S & P Call rate			

Standard Variable Mortgage Fund

to £2,999	8.04	8.34	0705 827738
over £10,000	8.22	8.54	0705 827738
Talent & Riley call	8.36	8.64	01 236 0626
T & R 1 day	8.43	8.80	01 236 0532
Typical call	8.34	8.81	0272 732241
Typical 7 day	8.25	8.51	0272 732241
1077 day	8.12	8.37	01 629 4881
Western trust			
1 month	8.32	8.64	0752 261161

GNAR - Compounded Net Annual Rate. Figures are the latest available at the time of going to press.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - if a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month in which balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
Start rate monthly income for first year, 8 per cent, increased at end of each year to match increase in prices as measured by Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same. Income taxable, paid gross. Three months notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment £5,000, in multiples of £1,000, maximum £50,000.

National Savings 3rd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £5,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the first year, 2.75 per cent in the second year, 3.25 per cent in the



third year: 4 per cent in the fourth year and 5.25 per cent in the fifth year. Value of Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1980, £183.20 including bonus and supplement.

November RPI 378.4.
(The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

National Savings Certificates
£1st issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.85 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20, Maximum £200 a month. Return over five years 8.19 per cent - tax free.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £100 maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent

variable at six weeks notice credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax. Higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 1.2, 3.4 yrs. General Portfolio 8.5 per cent, 5 yrs New Direction Finance 9.1 per cent.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers until April 1986, when CRT becomes payable). 1 yr Moseley 7.5 per cent, min investment £1,000; 2 yrs Kirkcaldy 8.5 per cent, min investment £500; 3-7 yrs Edinburgh, 8 per cent, min investment £500; 8-10 yrs Thameside, 7 per cent, min investment £500. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (01-638 6381 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 to 2 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Standard	10.28 per cent
US dollar	7.21 per cent
Yen	7.13 per cent
Mark	9.92 per cent
French Franc	9.84 per cent
Swiss Franc	7.70 per cent

SPECIAL COMPETITION OFFER

1986

Here's how TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust can make it your year for profit

To quote our Investment Managers: "1986 could be a quiet year but one which will nevertheless offer profitable opportunities to those who know where to find them".

Which is why they have nominated TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust as our entry for the "Daily Telegraph" Unit Trust Managers' Competition for 1986. Because TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is ideally placed to take advantage of every profitable opportunity which may occur throughout the coming year.

Wide investment scope

The strength of TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust lies in its freedom to invest when and wherever the Investment Managers see the chance of making profits.

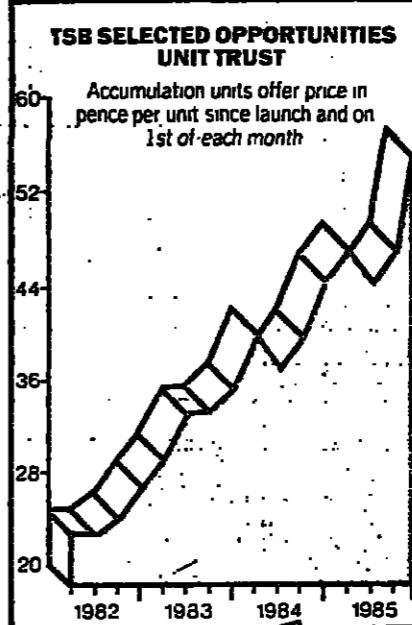
As the graph here shows, this aggressive and dynamic approach has more than paid off.

In fact, those who invested at the launch in April 1982 have seen the value of their original investment more than double since then.

And now, with a proven strategy behind it, TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is set to continue its progressive trend, and improve on it.

Confidence in the year ahead

As we have said, our Investment Managers expect 1986 to be quiet for markets as a whole. But, with their freedom to invest in Europe (where the markets have been producing good returns), in the UK



(where there are still profits to be made from the underlying strength of our economy), and internationally when they see fit, they believe this Trust will produce healthy returns in 1986.

And we believe it will do well in the "Daily Telegraph" Competition, a contest in which we have achieved a better aggregate return over three years than any other participating group.

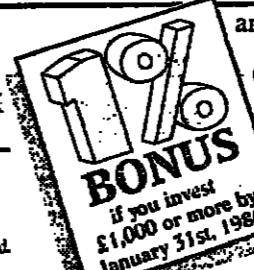
Invest today for a bonus

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard your investment as a medium to long term one.

Nevertheless, convinced as we are that ours is the Trust to choose for the coming year, we

are offering a bonus to early investors. The minimum investment in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is £250 but, if you invest £1,000 or more before January 31st, 1986, we will add a bonus of 1% of extra units to your holding, entirely free of charge.

So don't delay. Invest with us today, and look forward to a promising year ahead.



TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Bonus Application Form valid until January 31st 1986

To: Fred Shafoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 65432/3/4

I/We wish to invest £ (min. £250) in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust at the price ruling on the day of receipt of this application and to include a 1% bonus issue of units, if I/we invest £1,000 or more by 31.1.86.

I/We enclose a cheque payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to all investors. If you would prefer Income Units, with income distributed twice yearly, please tick here

For details of our Share Exchange facilities or our TSB Unbuilder Regular Savings Scheme tick as applicable.



A TOP PERFORMER
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Newsworthy!

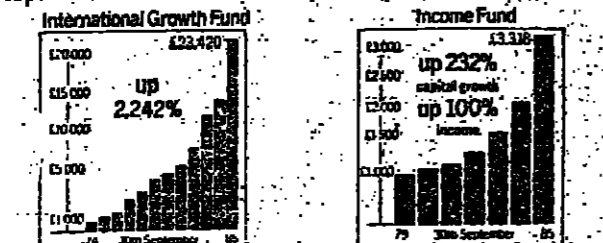


Unit Trust Managers of the year*

Perpetual's the top performer
... Perpetual takes The Observer's 1985 Unit Trust Managers of the Year award. A richly deserved award. Its investment team - chairman Martin Arbib, Bob Yerbury, Scott McGlashan and Martin Rasch - have been producing performance plums well for many years...
* OBSERVER 15th Dec '85

Five stars in the world ranking
... Perpetual Group Growth Fund now ranked Perpetual International Growth Fund also features consistently among the best performers...
FINANCIAL TIMES 16th Dec '85

In the eleven years since launching the Group's first unit trust in the United Kingdom, Perpetual has earned an enviable reputation for consistent investment success.



International Growth Fund
The top authorised fund over the eleven year period to the 31st December 1985.

Income Fund
The top income fund for capital growth over the six years since launch on June 1979 to 31st December 1985.

N.B. All figures as at 31st December 1985 and include reinvested income for the International Growth Fund. Figures quoted are on an after tax basis. You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Unit Trust Managers of the year
... Over the year, every single Perpetual Fund has moved into the black... Over the last 12 months, the Perpetual Funds have produced an average weighted performance of 27.7 per cent...
* MONEY MAGAZINE Dec '85

Who is best of the biggest unit Managers?
... awards for consistency to Perpetual... for achieving a place in the top five for all the years shown. (One year, two years, three years, four years, five years and ten years.)
Daily Telegraph 13th July '85

and next? Send for advance details of Perpetual's new Fund.
The Perpetual Group, 36 Hat Street, Hanley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 6AZ.
Tel: Hanley-on-Thames (0491) 57684.

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)
ADDRESS
POST CODE



FAMILY MONEY/4

Quick cash? Not the BES way

BUSINESS EXPANSION

Anyone interested in underwriting Business Expansion Scheme issues should note that a call on the underwriters has recently been made for one BES scheme. Chelsea Restaurants, which was seeking a minimum of £800,000 from investors (maximum £2.5 million) managed to raise only £350,000. The issue was underwritten and therefore the underwriters have been called to make up the deficit, which they have done.

schemes generally; certain types are being examined by the Revenue, as potentially containing provisions in the way they are operating (or intend to operate, that would take them outside the ambit of the BES. The Chelsea Restaurants experience illustrates that BES underwriting is not simply a passport to a quick cash hand-out. Ardencote plc is looking for up to £450,000 to finance improvements to the Ardencote Country Club, located in Warwickshire. Although the executive directors have invested £100,000 of their own money, they do not appear from the prospectus to have much relevant experience. Moreover, the sponsors have taken an option over 50,000 shares at the 50p price only (outside investors pay 75p now) up to June 30, 1991.

SOME BES SCHEMES STILL AVAILABLE TO INVESTORS

Table with columns: Company/Fund name, Sponsor, Minimum Investment, Closing date. Lists various investment opportunities like Riverside Racquet Centre, Hoskins Brewery PLC, City Fine Wine PLC, etc.

Research: Sue Proud, The Times

Lawrence Lever

A firmer footing for the early leavers

PENSIONS

New provisions aimed at improving the pension rights of early leavers are contained in the Social Security Act 1985, which came into force this week writes Lawrence Lever. They will increase the value of certain deferred or preserved pensions left behind by employees switching jobs as well as widening the options available to them in respect of their accrued pension benefits.

in order to qualify for a preserved pension. The previous additional requirement, that they must also have reached the age of 26, will no longer apply. Moreover, for certain employees leaving employment after January 1, 1986, there will be a statutory requirement on employers to increase the value of their preserved pension. This requirement will apply only to the pension benefits that an employee has accumulated since January 1, 1985. In the case of contracted-out pension schemes, the revaluation of

pension benefits will only apply to the balance over and above the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). For final pay pension schemes the relevant preserved pension must be increased by at least 5 per cent per annum or the level of increase in the retail prices index, whichever works out lower. The GMP element will continue to be increased by the fixed rate of 8.5 per cent per year, under the provisions of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

The new law applies also to money purchase pension schemes. These cannot be contracted out of the state earnings related scheme (SERPS). The new law provides that the treatment of money purchase pension in a money purchase scheme must be the same as that applicable to pensions remaining within the scheme. In other words there must be no discrimination, in terms of matters such as interest and bonus payments, between preserved pensions and existing pensions within a money purchase scheme.

Another change which came into force this week gives employees the option to transfer their accrued pension rights to a new company pension scheme or to an insurance company, to fund a special pensions policy known as a buy-out or transfer plan, as an alternative to maintaining a preserved pension. The calculation of transfer values must conform to guidelines issued last month by the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries. Moreover, transfer values must be at least equivalent to the deferred or preserved pension. In the case of an employee moving from a contracted-out to a non-contracted out scheme, the GMP must, according to the new law, remain in the old scheme, with the transfer value requirements only applying to the balance of the pension benefits.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Financial journalists often recommend Friendly Societies as ideal for savers because BUILDING SOCIETY SAVINGS EARN 30% MORE WHEN INVESTED THROUGH A FRIENDLY SOCIETY. Homeowners, the largest, invests £100 million on behalf of 160,000 savers. There are tax free monthly and annual savings plans and attractive lump sum schemes (£500 or £1000) to choose from. Your savings could be earning 12.05% p.a. tax free (12.27% gross equivalent). Clip the ad and send for details TODAY (without obligation) to: Homeowners Friendly Society, FREEPOST, Harrogate, N. Yorks. HG1 5BR. (We promise no salesman will call).

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Coastal Resort Hotels PLC. Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme of up to 1,230,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at 125p per share payable in full on application.

Base Lending Rates. ABN Bank 11 1/2%, Adam & Company 11 1/2%, BCCI 11 1/2%, Citibank Savings 12 1/2%, Consolidated Crds 11 1/2%, Continental Trust 11 1/2%, Co-operative Bank 11 1/2%, C. Hoare & Co 11 1/2%, Lloyds Bank 11 1/2%, Nat Westminster 11 1/2%, Royal Bank Scotland 11 1/2%, TSB 11 1/2%, Citibank NA 11 1/2%.

More retirement income? If you are retired, or planning for retirement, you need the best possible income from the capital you have, and probably help in reducing the amount of tax you pay. At Trident Life we specialise in investment schemes which are particularly advantageous for the over 50's and 60's.

Trident Life. To: Trident Life Assurance Co. Ltd., FREEMPS, London Road, Gloucester GL1 3BR. I should like to obtain more retirement income. (minimum capital £1000).

Specialist fund for Yorkshire businesses

This week saw the latest offering of specialist unit trusts with the launch of the Yorkshire General Trust, which will be investing at least 75 per cent of investors' money in Yorkshire companies.

About 144 companies qualify for the "Yorkshire" label, according to the managers of the new trust, the Yorkshire General Unit Trust Ltd. These will be companies with Yorkshire headquarters or whose main activities are located in Yorkshire.

This is the York Trust's Index incorporating the 144 Yorkshire companies, which was first compiled on March 1 1985. It is published weekly in the Yorkshire Post. The introductory leaflet shows an overall increase of 28.5 per cent in the share prices of the constituent companies from October 1 1985 to now as against an FT 30 Index increase for the same period of 19.8 per cent.

There are potential conflicts of interest. The managers also point out that since the compilation of the YTI Index it has out-performed both FTSE 100 and the FT 30. You should tread carefully with such comparisons, because the "Yorkshire" connection is not one that is widely recognized.

It is also worth noting that there is always considerable scope for manipulating statistical evidence by choosing the optimum starting date to determine the period over which the comparison is to be made. Though the companies in the so-called YTI Index show a price increase that outstrips those of the FT 30 since October 1975, the picture changes considerably if you take a more recent view.

The price of fame could prove costly for Bath

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent. It is a sign of rugby's cyclical nature that the Leicester supplied England with seven players in 1984, with consequent disruption to their cup plans, Bath's trio of selectors sat down for five hours yesterday to plan their approach to the John Player Special Cup match with Oxford on January 23, knowing that they will not see their leading players in matches between now and then.

England have a squad meeting tomorrow and next week before the meeting with Wales on January 18 and Bath, affected by injuries today, have seven players involved with the match squad. Leicester have only one, which could give body to their cup hopes this season.

Northampton v L. Welsh Gary Puro, the England prop, makes his first appearance for a month in the scrum against the Welsh. The scrum moves to start off where the Welsh also make a change. Howard Evans returns to the scrum, while Steve Zandier, whose injury has kept him out of the scrum since last week, is replaced by Gareth Jones.

Cheshire 18-Group Durham 18-Group. The fulfilment of the Cheshire and England 18-Group contest-off at Sale, the first of a hard-fought match yesterday at Sale, where Cheshire won, not too convincingly, by a goal and two tries to two tries and a penalty.

CROSS-COUNTRY Cameras will be absent again in Milk event. By Pat Butcher. Of the three main domestic cross-country races outside of championships in Britain, last year's Milk International at Mallieu, near the Welsh border, was the most exciting, with Tim Hutchings only out-sprinting Nat Muir and Jerry Kieran in the last 200 metres of eight kilometres.

More retirement income? If you are retired, or planning for retirement, you need the best possible income from the capital you have, and probably help in reducing the amount of tax you pay. At Trident Life we specialise in investment schemes which are particularly advantageous for the over 50's and 60's.

All Scottish positions begging to be filled

By Ian McLachlan. There have been few more important games in the Scottish domestic season than today's international trial at Murrayfield. Virtually every place in the national side is there for the taking. The Blues, or senior side, with an average age of nearly 29 years, can hardly be claimed to be picked for the future.

Instonians aim for top place. By George Ace. Instonians can understate their claims to finish top of the Section B of the Digital Ulster Senior League by winning the re-arranged game against struggling CRYMS, still unbeaten after four games, at Belmont this afternoon. It is the only league fixture of the day.

Mallieu tips balance. By Michael Stevenson. The fulfilment of the Cheshire and England 18-Group contest-off at Sale, the first of a hard-fought match yesterday at Sale, where Cheshire won, not too convincingly, by a goal and two tries to two tries and a penalty.

CROSS-COUNTRY Cameras will be absent again in Milk event. By Pat Butcher. Of the three main domestic cross-country races outside of championships in Britain, last year's Milk International at Mallieu, near the Welsh border, was the most exciting, with Tim Hutchings only out-sprinting Nat Muir and Jerry Kieran in the last 200 metres of eight kilometres.

YACHTING Lion roars home but is 64 seconds too late. From John Nicholls, Auckland. Two more boats finished the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World race here yesterday and once again there were crowds of Cup Final proportions to greet them as they reached their berths. The biggest cheers were reserved for Peter Blake's Lion New Zealand, although she was the second to finish and the fifth altogether to complete the 7,100-mile leg from Cape Town.

Boat Show diary. Prince at the Palace. By Adrian Morgan. Prince Andrew is to open the National Dinghy Show, to be held at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre from March 8 to 9. The popularity of dinghy sailing has taken a knock in recent years, but British dinghy sailors still number more than 350,000.

Zimbabwe threaten ban if four on blacklist do not sign declaration

By Nicholas Ashford

The cricketing crisis caused by Bangladesh's decision to ban four England B players who have coached in South Africa yesterday threatened to spread to Zimbabwe, the third country on the team's proposed tour.

There were fears that the full England tour of the West Indies later this month could also be affected. Surman Mehta, vice-chairman of the Zimbabwe Sports and Recreational Council said in Harare that the team's tour would not go ahead next month unless the four players - Kim Barnett, Bill Athey, Martyn Moxon and Christopher Smith - promised not to have any more sporting contacts with South Africa.

"We will not emerge on our position," Mr Mehta said. "If the four players don't sign declarations against having any more sporting contacts with South Africa... the team will definitely not be cleared." The four have been blacklisted by the United Nations for either playing or coaching in South Africa.

Cricketing officials are aware that sports and politics do not mix. The Foreign Office spent much of yesterday hitting aside suggestions that the Government should intervene in the controversy caused by Bangladesh's abrupt decision.

Some sporting enthusiasts, such as John Carlisle, Conservative MP for North Northamptonshire and chairman of the Parliamentary sports committee, urged Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to secure assurances that England's forthcoming tour of West Indies should not suffer a similar last-minute cancellation.

"We must be certain that there will be no objections to any of our players and that there will be no demonstrations against them," Mr Carlisle said. If the Foreign Office did not receive such assurances, the Test and County Cricket Board should pull out, he added.

The Foreign Office response was that the Government did

not intend to get involved in talks on this issue. "This is a matter for the cricket authorities," a spokesman said.

On the other side of the political divide, anti-apartheid activists accused the Government of not abiding fully with the Commonwealth's 1977 Gleneagles Agreement and urged it to take a tougher approach towards sporting contacts with South Africa.

The Foreign Office retorted that the Government accepted the provisions of the Gleneagles Agreement, drawn up to curb sporting links with South Africa as far as was humanly possible. However, in matters

of individual freedom, the Government could not impose travel restrictions on its own citizens, it added.

The mood in Government circles was a mixture of dismay that Bangladesh should have acted as it did - at such short notice and annoyance with the English cricketing authorities for having selected players whose sporting links with South Africa laid them open to punitive action by Commonwealth countries.

Richard Tracey, the Minister of Sport, said Bangladesh's last-minute decision was "quite unreasonable".

It was still unclear yesterday whether Bangladesh's action could provoke similar moves by other Commonwealth coun-

tries, particularly at the Zimbabwe leg of the tour is also called off.

Of most concern is the future of the full England tour of West Indies which starts in three weeks time. Cricketing authorities here fear that Bangladesh's action may revive political opposition in some Caribbean countries to a tour by a team which contains four players who have already been disciplined for having sporting contacts with South Africa.

The four are Graham Gooch, Peter Willey, John Emburey and Les Taylor, all of whom were members of the 1982 "black" tour of South Africa. They were banned from international cricket for three years after that tour.

West Indian governments gave guarantees last year that the 16-strong England party will be welcome in the Caribbean. Steve Camacho, the West Indies cricket chief, said yesterday he had no reason to believe the Bangladesh decision would have any bearing on the England tour of the West Indies.

"We already have firm assurances from all our governments that all members of the England party are acceptable," he said. However, there is concern that there could be problems in Trinidad and Tobago, where Test matches are scheduled during the tour.

There is also concern that Caribbean governments could be forced to change their stance if any of the four players banned by Bangladesh are called upon to go to the West Indies as replacements.

Hassan Howa, head of the non-racial South African Cricket Board, urged West Indian governments to follow Bangladesh's lead. Mr Howa refuses to let his Coloured and mixed-race clubs play against white teams from the South African Cricket Union, which is coaching in South Africa.

Leading article, page 9

S. Africa welcome

Cape Town - Geoff Dakin, president of the South African Cricket Union, said yesterday that England's B team would be welcome to tour South Africa (five Test matches). "I accept it is a pipe dream but I would like to see them here," he said. "And I hope Bangladesh's associate membership of the ICC would be called into question."

of individual freedom, the Government could not impose travel restrictions on its own citizens, it added.

The mood in Government circles was a mixture of dismay that Bangladesh should have acted as it did - at such short notice and annoyance with the English cricketing authorities for having selected players whose sporting links with South Africa laid them open to punitive action by Commonwealth countries.

Richard Tracey, the Minister of Sport, said Bangladesh's last-minute decision was "quite unreasonable".

It was still unclear yesterday whether Bangladesh's action could provoke similar moves by other Commonwealth coun-

Little hope of alternative tour

By Richard Streeton

Inevitably the politicians around the world held centre stage yesterday, with leaders vying to show they were more purists in the drama. Even Peter Lush, the England B team manager, reluctantly conceded that Bangladesh's action, though cynical, had been superbly timed to achieve maximum publicity and disruption.

England B have now arranged to leave London next Wednesday and will arrive in Sri Lanka a week later. It is not clear whether they are to play an additional three-day game that weekend before they fulfil their scheduled fixtures, which end on February 13 in Kandy.

The Test and County Cricket Board still wait anxiously to hear whether the team can then proceed to Zimbabwe and more importantly, if there are any repercussions for the senior England tour to West Indies. Apart from renewed anxiety every time they enter a new country during their Caribbean visit, England face a ticklish decision if they wish to replace an injured player during

their visit, with one of the B side based from Bangladesh.

It has not proved easy so far to arrange alternative games in India. The England B team manager, reluctantly conceded that Bangladesh's action, though cynical, had been superbly timed to achieve maximum publicity and disruption.

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Giant in the slalom: Gaspoz on his way to a second successive World Cup win

Second win for Gaspoz despite poor conditions

Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia (Reuters) - Joël Gaspoz of Switzerland won his second World Cup giant slalom race in two weeks on the Vitranc mountain here yesterday.

Luxembourg's World Cup holder Marc Girardelli, struggling to find his best slalom timing and rhythm, finished fourth to retain his overall World Cup lead.

On a course where conditions fluctuated madly between the top and bottom, and where a thin snow covering quickly wore down to ice, Gaspoz held off a strong challenge from Austria's Robert Strobl and West Germany's Magnus Wassmeier to win in 2:03.89. Strobl was second in 2:04.20 and Wassmeier third in 2:04.48.

"You had to ski with real feeling because of the changing conditions," Gaspoz said. "This was not perfect race. I can still ski better."

In the race here on December 20 Gaspoz's won partly because of a second-leg slip by the Italian Robert Erbacher, but yesterday he won on his own merits. "I was more aggressive, took more risks," he said.

There was a moment when he felt victory drifting away. "I had a slow start, but I was in the lead. I felt myself dropping back and was furious with myself," he said. "I pushed to the limits in the last stages."

Many racers felt this was the first major test of the season, with a full complement of stars, including Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen, returning from injury, appearing among the top 15.

For Wassmeier, the giant slalom world champion, it was the best result since his third place in a downhill at Lenzerheide in August and he felt himself closer to his goal of a first World Cup win.

Wassmeier, still seeking full fitness after having a knee in 1985, said last month, said: "I can build on this."

Girardelli's fourth place was his best result in a technical discipline. This season he has still not been good enough for me. I'm skiing too far from the gates," the Austrian-born skier said.

Zurbriggen, the overall World Cup winner last season, was placed with eleventh position, his first time in the top 15 this season. He had missed four races after injuring his knee in training for the Val d'Isere downhill.

RESULTS: 1, J. Gaspoz (Switz), 2:03.89; 2, R. Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3, M. Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4, M. Girardelli (Switz), 2:05.25; 5, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:05.48; 6, A. Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:05.57; 7, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.11; 8, R. Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.25; 9, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.39; 10, R. Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.53; 11, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.17; 12, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.31; 13, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.45; 14, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.59; 15, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:08.13.

OVERALL WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1, J. Gaspoz (Switz), 2:03.89; 2, R. Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3, M. Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4, M. Girardelli (Switz), 2:05.25; 5, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:05.48; 6, A. Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:05.57; 7, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.11; 8, R. Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.25; 9, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.39; 10, R. Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.53; 11, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.77; 12, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.91; 13, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.05; 14, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.19; 15, M. Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.33.

OVERALL WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM STANDINGS: 1, Gaspoz (Switz), 2:03.89; 2, Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4, Girardelli (Switz), 2:05.25; 5, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:05.48; 6, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:05.57; 7, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.11; 8, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.25; 9, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.39; 10, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.53; 11, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.77; 12, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.91; 13, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.05; 14, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.19; 15, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.33.

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OVERALL WORLD CUP DOWNHILL STANDINGS: 1, Gaspoz (Switz), 2:03.89; 2, Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4, Girardelli (Switz), 2:05.25; 5, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:05.48; 6, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:05.57; 7, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.11; 8, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.25; 9, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.39; 10, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.53; 11, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.77; 12, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.91; 13, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.05; 14, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.19; 15, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.33.

OVERALL WORLD CUP SUPER-G STANDINGS: 1, Gaspoz (Switz), 2:03.89; 2, Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4, Girardelli (Switz), 2:05.25; 5, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:05.48; 6, Wassmeier (West Germany), 2:05.57; 7, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.11; 8, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.25; 9, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.39; 10, Erbacher (Italy), 2:06.53; 11, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.77; 12, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:06.91; 13, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.05; 14, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.19; 15, Hurn (New Zealand), 2:07.33.

Classic tale of Love in paradise

From Mitchell Platts Nassau

Davis Love III, who is competing in his first tournament as a professional, maintained an impressive challenge for the Bahamas Classic first prize of \$72,000 with a second round of 65 on the Paradise Island course here yesterday.

Love, a member of the United States team which beat Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup at Pine Valley last August, has a halfway aggregate of 133, which is 11 under par. He was joined on that mark by Bob Twy, another American, who added a 66 to an opening round of 67.

Ronan Rafferty, the sole British challenger, topped the list at 134, 12 under par. He is 11 under par after 71 holes. The American who led following a first round of 64, set out to chase the early pace-makers Love and Twy.

Rafferty, who made a disappointing start to last season following a poor record in 1985, is not wasting any time proving his swing for 1986 when he will be seeking to win for the first time on the European circuit.

He got another three weeks in the West Indies tournament in Venezuela, Hong Kong, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe, followed by a \$30,000 Pro-Am at my home course of Warrenton." Rafferty explained that he will oppose the only one event between November and April, and by the Open Championship I had won only \$7,000. But I finished the season in a premium on accurate driving which is the European circuit, with a total of \$46,000, and it showed that I played better by competing weekly."

Love, aged 21, a prodigious driver, is an interesting prospect on the American tour, which is currently in the midst of some talent to revitalise the scene following the failure of Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino to win in 1985.

He gathered five birdies on the 6,976 yards course, which places a premium on accurate driving, and the airways twisting among the pine trees, while Twy had six birdies to move alongside him.

SECOND ROUND LEADERS: US unless stated: 1, D. Love (USA), 65; 2, R. Twy (USA), 66; 3, R. Rafferty (GB), 67; 4, M. Platts (USA), 68; 5, J. Sumner (USA), 68; 6, S. McEwen (USA), 69; 7, M. Donald (GB), 71; 8, M. Donald (GB), 71; 9, M. Donald (GB), 71; 10, M. Donald (GB), 71; 11, M. Donald (GB), 71; 12, M. Donald (GB), 71; 13, M. Donald (GB), 71; 14, M. Donald (GB), 71; 15, M. Donald (GB), 71.

Wilander fast but not forward

From Richard Evans, West Berlin

McEnroe and the current world number one, Ivan Lendl, hogged the headlines in 1985, it was Wilander who came closest to becoming the only player to win two Grand Slam titles when he lost to his fellow Swede, Stefan Edberg, in the final of the Australian Open.

Bjorn Borg, doyen of the Swedish tennis writers who has plotted the careers of Bjorn Borg and Wilander ball for ball, feels that Wilander's achievements are comparable to Borg's at the same age, save for the older man's triumphs at Wimbledon.

Wilander is a vastly underrated player, but that is of no great concern to him. He watches the trials and tribulations that befall celebrities like McEnroe and Becker and hides behind his small, knowing smile, quite content to keep his fame at a manageable level.

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Why boys are the weaker sex

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The left-handed top seeds, John Wood (Enfield) and Austen Brice (Stocport), will face younger opponents in today's singles final of the Prudential indoor championship of Britain at Queen's Club, West Kensington. Miss Wood will play Sue McCarthy (Bristol), who was seeded only seventh but has not lost a set in her career.

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Book reviews

A new key to unlock the treasures of Wisden

By Marcus Williams

Apart from an encyclopaedic memory or capacity for private filing, the key to the treasure of Wisden in these many years past has been the index compiled by Rex Pogson to the first 80 editions (1864-1943). Through the fault of its publishers, the book has become progressively out of date, until this year's (1985) a long-standing need was met.

An Index to Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1864-1984 (Queen Anne Press, £17.50) has been put together by Derek Barnard, a schoolmaster, who quickly discovered a hobby developing into an obsession as he browsed through the pages of the 64-page volume in traditional daffodil and chocolate jacket, the first of several promised volumes covering cricket in these islands before by larger type and a less economical layout.

The reason for the duplication lies in differences of opinion between Mr Barnard and fellow members of the Association of Cricket Statisticians, who compiled the other work, and a decision to do their separate ways. One is delighted for Mr Barnard that his publishers displayed their faith in his painstaking research by going ahead with the project, albeit without sponsorship and consequently illustrations, and delighted to that, unlike his rivals, he now states a preference for traditional career figures.

However, the Newnes book, which conveniently attaches these career figures to the individual's biography rather than consign them to an appendix (as does Mr Barnard's book), must have cornered the market for all but the wealthiest and most dedicated.

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SNOW REPORTS

Meteo news: runs almost complete new snow on Ben Bulbin, 30 feet. Hill roads: slight snow. Main roads: slight snow. Snow level: 2,000 feet.

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BASKETBALL

United are blown off court by the holders

By Nicholas Harling

The start was ominous for United as they conceded the first nine points, five of them to free throws. Nerves were clearly playing their part as United frittered away shooting opportunities.

The proceedings yesterday were overshadowed by the news that Palace, the host club, are up for sale, requiring £100,000 by the end of the month to avoid going into liquidation.

Kingston's Carlsberg National league home game with Blackwell United, which had been rearranged for Sunday, has been put back again. The new date is February 10 (6.0 pm).

SEMIFINAL: Maccabi Tel Aviv 104 (McGee 30, Johnson 30, Smith 13, Brown 17, Gardner 14) vs Walsley 103 (Brown 17, Gardner 14, Johnson 30, Smith 13, McGee 30).

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FOOTBALL

Many happy returns for Mills as old guard and television reappear

By Clive White

Television cameras bring football back into focus for millions of followers this weekend after an absence lasting eight months. Viewers will find that little has changed and those who have forsaken the sport for an even longer time may find that not even the faces have changed.



FA CUP

ent years, finally came good again - very good. He was granted a testimonial and given an insurance payment. But his injury did respond to treatment and earlier this season Manchester United, of all clubs, chose to sign the 27-year-old defender on Central League forms which meant he was not available to play in the Football League, but for the FA Cup he was still eligible.

son, Gidman and Olsen for a variety of reasons, also welcome back Duxbury, the former England full back though his two-month absence because of injury seems short by comparison.

In contrast to Higgins, the return of Wile, who played 499 first division games for West Bromwich Albion across two decades, is a most reluctant one. Now manager of Peterborough United and two months short of his 39th birthday, he has been forced to dig out his boots again because of injuries to face Leeds United. Among those injured is Firm, who coincidentally has been advised to retire from the game. Perhaps he should first have a word with Higgins.

FA CUP TEAM NEWS

Birmingham v Altrincham Wembleton is Birmingham's chief doubt. Geddis's fitness is unproven. Roberts and Bremner should return. Altrincham are not naming their side but Wembleton, once of Birmingham, is sure to keep goal.

Frickley v Rotherham Eley and another junior are under consideration by Rotherham, who will be without Pugh and Travers. Frickley will be without Hooley, who is cup-tied, but hope Foley will have recovered from a pulled muscle.

Millwall v Wimbledon Wimbledon have Kay, Sanchez, Hodges and Holloway receiving treatment, but Gullora and Smith are available. Shaw is suspended from the side who soundly beat Hull.

Bristol R v Leicester Leicester are unchanged. Goalkeeper Green, Welsh international Stevenson (after two months) and captain Jones all return for Bristol Rovers.

Gillingham v Derby Gillingham are unchanged except for substitute when Quinn takes over from Atkinson. Forest are also unchanged because Rice damaged an ankle in training. There is no place for Carr against his former club.

Newcastle v Brighton Brighton field the same side for the fifth successive match. Newcastle will also be unchanged.

Bury v Barnsley Bury is set to return for Barnsley, whose form has suddenly turned sour. Cross and Ogley, both teenagers, may also play. Bury welcome back Ross but Hill is still out.

Grimsby v Arsenal Arsenal are hopeful that Robson will return. Williams is again omitted. Peake is recalled by Grimsby as is Emerson. With the Moore brothers injured, Crombie moves to the middle of defence and Agnew comes in at left back.

Nottm F v Blackburn Blackburn may return after a lengthy absence for Tottenham. Falco has injured a shoulder. Peter Allen is back in contention. Oxford's Hebbard has recovered from fit.

Carlisle v QPR Filley is again ruled out for Rangers but James is available after two weeks. Faraday is likely to continue in midfield. Carlisle should be unchanged.

Huddersfield v Reading Reading have five players injured and two out but only White, Williams and Richardson are definite non-starters. Huddersfield are unchanged.

Oxford v Tottenham Chelsea may return after a lengthy absence for Tottenham. Falco has injured a shoulder. Peter Allen is back in contention. Oxford's Hebbard has recovered from fit.

Coventry v Watford Barnes's injured thigh is giving Watford concern. Peake may have to play for Coventry irrespective of match fitness.

Hull City v Plymouth Higgins, who retired two years ago, includes himself in the squad. Roberts returns from suspension. Philo, Plymouth's reserve goalkeeper, takes over from the injured Cradguing and Nisbet and Coughlin are replaced by Burrows and Matthews.

Sheff Wed v Fulham Cony, the subject of transfer speculation, is expected to return. Hopkins, Carr and Ekins are doubtful. Wednesday are without Megson and Worthington. Bolton and Peterisk recall the suspended McNaught and Wile.

Crystal P v Luton Arystal, formerly with Luton, has shaken off a thigh injury to make himself available for Palace. Finney is out with an ankle injury. Luton are unchanged.

Ipswich v Bradford City Zondervan returns for Ipswich after a broken toe but the team is not finalised. Bradford should be at full strength again.

Portsmouth v Aston Villa Shaw, Kerr and Glover join a Villa squad who are still without Williams and Bradley and much sought. Portsmouth are unchanged.

Manchester U v Rochdale Higgins, who retired two years ago because of injury, will play for United. Duxbury plays his first game in two months. Turner is again preferred to the squad. Expect Hicks's ankle to mend in time.

Sheff Wed v WBA Albion include Owen in their squad for the first time this season. Hunt has a groin strain. Greshall and Robson are also considered.

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Middlesbrough v St Leon Middlesbrough have doubts about the fitness of McAndrew, Mowbray and Pallister. Southampton are without Case and Dwyer. Cookwell and Baker dispute.

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Stewart Robson: Could be back for Arsenal at Grimsby.



Diego Maradona (above) said yesterday that his knee does not need surgery and that it should stand up to the World Cup finals in Mexico in June. The Argentine forward, who plays for Napoli in the Italian League, added: "I met Dr Ruben Oliva and others in Buenos Aires and all agreed that surgery would be useless, if not dangerous".

Milan (AP) - Diego Maradona (above) said yesterday that his knee does not need surgery and that it should stand up to the World Cup finals in Mexico in June. The Argentine forward, who plays for Napoli in the Italian League, added: "I met Dr Ruben Oliva and others in Buenos Aires and all agreed that surgery would be useless, if not dangerous".

What makes New rule adds to club stress

By Hugh Taylor Heart of Middleham, the League leaders, are hoping that tonight they will find themselves even more fully established at the top of the premier division. They are four points clear of their nearest rivals, Aberdeen. Dundee United and Celtic, none of whom can be confident of taking full points from today's matches, and Hearts are playing with such confidence and style that it would be the surprise of the season so far if they were not to beat Motherwell, who are experiencing the greatest difficulty in easing themselves off the bottom rung of the ladder.

What is it true that they have gone down 2-1 at Fir Park already this season, their new blend of youth and experience since then has been too rich for all opponents and they have not lost in 14 games. As the race for the title becomes hotter, the most fascinating match is expected to be Tannadice, where Dundee United and Celtic meet for the second time in less than a fortnight. United won narrowly the last time but Celtic's spirits have been raised by their New Year's Day victory over Rangers and a draw against the visitors at Celtic Park.

It will be the first managerial venture in six years for Gemmill, who made 23 international appearances and scored one of the goals which won the European Cup for Celtic in Lisbon in 1967. He moved from Celtic to Dundee, where he spent three years as a player, before being named manager until his dismissal in 1980.

Gemmill takes over as Albion Rovers prop up the second division, having collected only seven points from 19 games. He is in charge at Hampden Park today when Rovers face Queen's Park.

Palace aid Dulwich Hamlet have agreed to stage Crystal Palace's Football Combination matches at Champion Hill, as from January 7, when Palace play Fulham (2.0). Palace have been about playing their reserve matches at Leatherhead's ground since early October, when Charlton Athletic moved in to share the facilities at Selhurst Park.

Youth switch Chesterfield's home third round FA Youth Cup match against Manchester United has been switched from today to Monday evening (kick-off 7.30) because the pitch is frozen.

Belles ready The women's FA stage the fourth round of their cup tomorrow. Doncaster Belles, last year's beaten finalists, will face their chances of winning the trophy if they overcome Biggleswade at home. The holders, friends of Fulham, were surprisingly beaten by Aylesbury in the last round.

Italians need foreigners to boost attendances

Milan, Italy (AP) - Attendances in the first half of the Italian League season are down 7 per cent on last year. However, talking did not show any significant decrease as a result of increased ticket prices. According to figures released by the Italian League this week 4.44 million people have attended football matches so far this season.

Football officials blamed the drop on the "Elyad effect" when 39 supporters died in crowd violence in Brussels last May, fewer new foreign stars and the undisputed leadership of Juventus, which deprived the title race of any thrill, for the drop in attendances.

ICE HOCKEY

Soviets win world title with time to spare

Hamilton, Canada, (AFP) - The Soviet Union won the just world championship two days before the end of the competition when they beat Canada, holders of the title on Thursday.

Canada took an early lead but the Soviet Union were increasingly dominant as the match wore on and won by a 4-1 (1-1, 1-0, 2-0) margin. The victory means the Soviets cannot be overtaken in the standings whatever the result of Canada's last match, against Czechoslovakia. Canada, however, are certain to finish runners-up.

A 17,000 crowd saw Shayne Corson put Canada ahead. Alexander Semak equalized. Canada were never given a chance from Leseda and Ostapenko gave the Soviets the lead barely two minutes into the second period. Khaidarov made it three six minutes later. The Soviet Union, who were on target less than two minutes later to complete the humiliation of the host country.

Results, page 19

HOCKEY

Champions look to Halliday for success indoors

By Sydney Friskin

there will be keen competition in this group for the two places which qualify for the semi-finals.

Groningen, from the other group, are hoping to be the first Dutch team to win the tournament. Their main inspiration comes from their captain, Japp Schultz, a Dutch international.

The remaining teams from this group are Murray International Metals, Firebrands of Bristol, and the Irish club, Avoca. Firebrands have replaced Team Volkswagen from Belfast, who withdrew after the death last Sunday of Frank Grogan during a training weekend in Dublin.

Outdoors competition in the Norwegian Union East League, the McEwan Lager South League, and the Sun Life West League will be resumed today, the Pizza Express London League having continued uninterrupted by the festive season. The team of the month award in the London League for December goes to Reading who are still unbeaten.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

FA Cup third round

Table listing FA Cup third round fixtures including Birmingham v Altrincham, Bristol Rovers v Leicester City, Bury v Barnsley, etc.

Scottish FA Cup Second round

Table listing Scottish FA Cup second round fixtures including Fort William v Spring, Haverly R v St Johnstone, etc.

RUGBY UNION

Table listing Rugby Union fixtures including Harlequins v Wasps, Reading v Leicester, etc.

Scottish premier division

Table listing Scottish premier division fixtures including Aberdeen v St Mirren, Dundee v Celtic, etc.

Scottish first division

Table listing Scottish first division fixtures including Arbroath v Alloa Athletic, Brechin City v Hamilton, etc.

Scottish second division

Table listing Scottish second division fixtures including Queen of South v E. Strathg, St. Johnstone v Arbroath, etc.

Third division

Table listing Third division fixtures including Blackpool v Lincoln City.

Fourth division

Table listing Fourth division fixtures including Halifax Town v Crewe Alexandra, Mansfield v Hartlepool, etc.

Football Combination

Table listing Football Combination fixtures including Southend v Grays, Wokingham v Maidenhead, etc.

League Cup

Table listing League Cup fixtures including Arsenal v Luton, Tottenham v Ipswich, etc.

League Two

Table listing League Two fixtures including Cardiff v Swansea, Gillingham v Barnsley, etc.

League One

Table listing League One fixtures including Reading v Luton, Walsall v Man City, etc.

League Three

Table listing League Three fixtures including Luton v Reading, Walsall v Man City, etc.

League Four

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League Five

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League Six

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League Seven

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League Eight

Table listing League Eight fixtures including Luton v Reading, Walsall v Man City, etc.

League Nine

Table listing League Nine fixtures including Luton v Reading, Walsall v Man City, etc.

PPA CERTIFIED DIVIDENDS. All dividends subject to reserving. MATCHES PLAYED 28th DEC. LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL. THOUSANDS OF WINNERS. RING IN THE NEW YEAR £2 MILLION.

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John Chiedozie: may return for Tottenham Hotspur at Oxford after lengthy absence.

Sheff Wed v WBA Albion include Owen in their squad for the first time this season. Hunt has a groin strain. Greshall and Robson are also considered.

Walsall v Man City Walsall may bring in O'Kelly to replace Elliott who has a chest infection. Moulden, an 18-year-old, who has once scored 280 goals in 40 games as a schoolboy, stands by for City. Davies tests a hamstring injury.

Everton v Exeter A shin injury means that Bracewell, as well as Steven and Shelly, will be absent for Everton. Harper, Richardson and Wilkinson step up. Darlington v Wolves Wolves include Alan Whitehead, signed from WBA yesterday, in their squad, while Darlington have Steve Tupling back after injury. Freezing weather means a pitch inspection tomorrow morning.

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FA Cup Third round. Birmingham v Altrincham (8.00), Everton v Grimsby (8.30), etc.

RUGBY UNION. Kent v Queensland (at Bechtel 2.30).

ICE HOCKEY. Haverly R v St Johnstone (8.00), etc.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Prospects for Mordt look even brighter

By Keith Macklin

Wigan introduce Ray Mordt, the South African international winger for their home game with Swinton tomorrow and at the same time will switch on their new underground heating if frosts threaten the game.

Mordt has an outstanding match he is in line for a surprise place in Wigan's John Player Special Trophy final against Hull Kingston Rovers next Saturday.

Mordt's Springbok colleague, Ross Louw, waits slightly longer to make his first appearance for Wigan. He will probably be introduced in the reserve game against Widnes on Wednesday.

St Helens are troubled with injuries for the visit to Halifax and may suffer their fourth consecutive defeat against the same time on the sides of the moment. Halifax are second in the table and should beat a Saints team who are without Arkwright and Holding, their international centre for the important game against Widnes, first division leaders.

Oldham who stopped badly at Leeds on New Year's day, hope to have Jones, prop forward, recovered from ankle trouble as they travel to Featherstone Rovers tomorrow. Warrington expect Rashbone, their international second row forward, to be back after injury for the important game against Widnes, first division leaders.

The league's management committee met last night to discuss Monday the referee's claims that the free-for-all constituted a brawl.

BOXING

Feeney awaits decision on title bout

John Feeney's chances of an eleventh championship bout will rest on a decision to be taken by the British Boxing Board of Control at next Wednesday's meeting.

They are awaiting a letter from Terry Winters, the referee, stating that the official leading contender Jim McDonnell is pulling out of the nomination to box either Feeney or Swansea's Robert Dickie for the British title vacated by Barry McGuigan.

It would be bad boxing business for McDonnell to go through with that contest. His newly-won European title would automatically be at stake and he could earn a bigger purse by taking on a major London promotion.

The board's secretary, Ray Clarke, said yesterday "I've been told the letter is on its way. But until we receive it the position remains unclear." McDonnell is official contender. When it does, the stewards must decide if Feeney and Dickie are to fight for the vacant championship.

JUDO

World champion breaks ankle

By Phillip Nickson

The year could not have had a worse beginning for Kazuo Ohno, the British 22-year-old world bantamweight judo champion, who in her first practice of 1986, broke a bone in her ankle.

My own national team manager, Roy Mann, threw me and although I landed fairly cleanly my leg was driven with a whip-like effect into the mat," Miss Briggs said.

"Never had to be in time for the European championships in London in March and completely fit for my world title defence in October in Holland."

Miss Briggs is unlikely to compete in the West German Open in February as expected, but with her impressive victory in the Fukuoka championships in Japan only last month she feels she will not be too far from competition practice at the European championships in March.

TABLE TENNIS

Prean in Europe top 10 event

Carl Prean's victory in the Belgian open championship in the November has catapulted him up the European table tennis rankings and earned him a chance to compete in the European top 12 tournament at the end of this month.

The 18-year-old England international has kept 15 places in 23 European rankings and will move up to 10th in the world, as reserve for the top 12 event from January 31-February 2.

If Prean is called upon to play he will meet England No 1 Desmond Douglas, who has dropped in place to sixth in the world rankings.

Lisa Bellinger is the top English girl in the European list, but drops one place to No 22.

RACING: EUROPEAN AGREEMENT MEANS TELEPROMPTER AND COMPANY WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ON THE BEST

Contradeal should stake Gold claim Geldings given their chance to run in group one races

By Mandarin

Mont Tremblant, Mandarin, Mill House and The Dikler have achieved four Cheltenham Gold Cup triumphs for Fulke Walwyn during his distinguished 46-year training career.

Walwyn gives Contradeal his sternest, just to date when saddling him against good-class chasers in today's Anthony Milderay, Peter Cazalet Memorial Handicap, the feature event on a competitive Sandown Park programme.

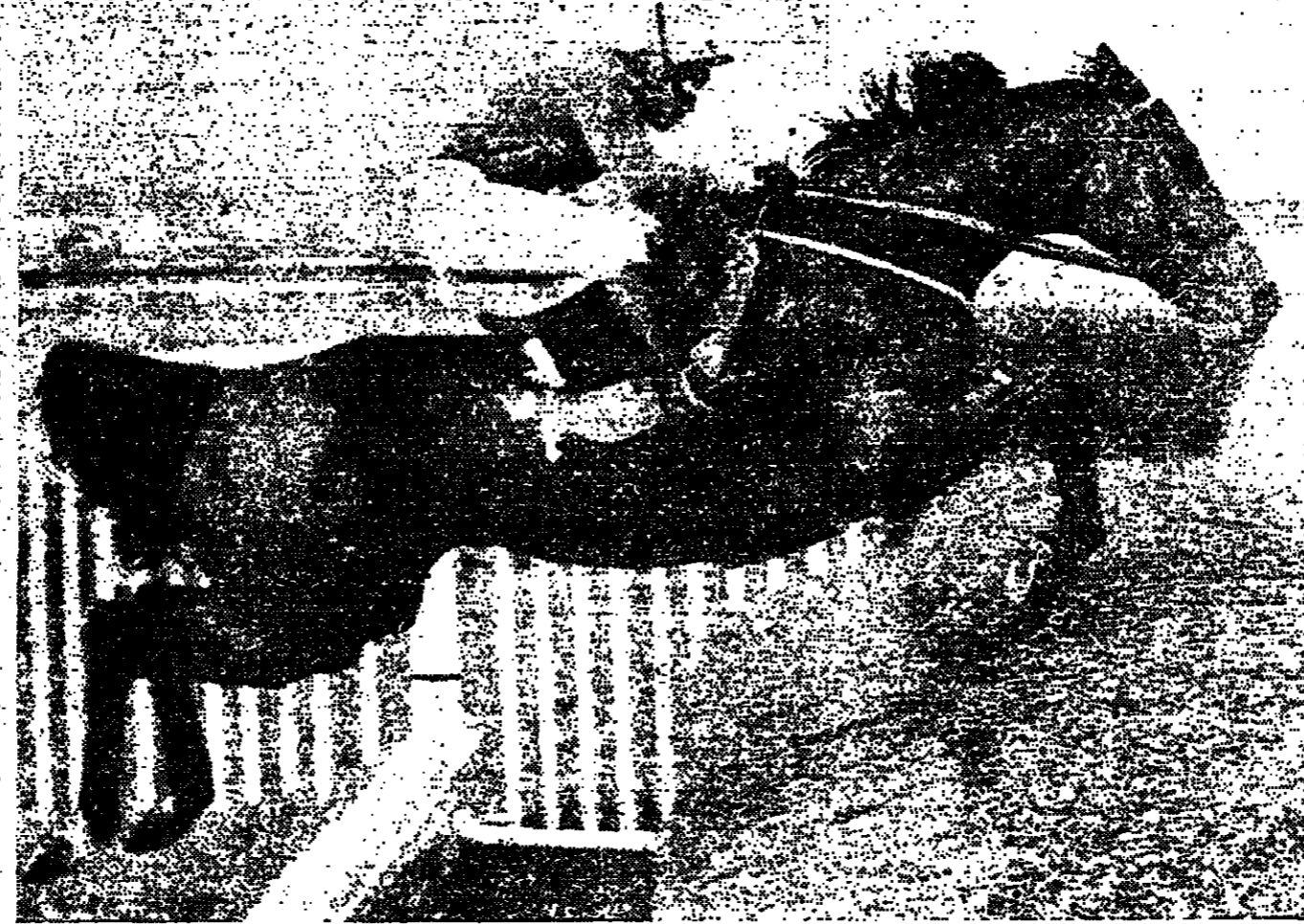
The nine-year-old, unbeaten in novice chases last season, disappointed in two early efforts on fast ground this term, but showed his true potential when quickening up well to beat Catch Phrase (receiving 11 lb) by four lengths in a three-mile handicap on soft going at Worcester last month.

The runner-up paid a compliment to Walwyn's hope with a runaway victory at Lingfield Park on Thursday and with no penalty for that Worcester success Contradeal gets into today's handicap with a tempting 10 st.

Contradeal cannot afford to take any jumping liberties around two circuits of the Esber course, but he should relish the more familiar tests today. He is napped to continue his march towards the Cheltenham crown.

John Spearing's quick and economical jumper, Run and Skip, won the Welsh Grand National in authoritative style and this bonny front-runner will expect him to confirm his Chesham running with Rhyme 'n' Reason, who was hampered in that event by Broodhead's fall.

Fred Wintler's Observe made a sparkling reappearance at Lingfield last month when he would have beaten Maori contour, but for veering badly left on the run-in, but he has to concede 21 lb to Contradeal, who can make the most of his lenient weight.



Contradeal shows the sort of power that could make him a leading contender for the chasing crown

Walwyn should complete a double at the meeting with Ray Prosser, who also looks on a handy mark for the 47 Park Street Novices Handicap Hurdle.

Nick Gaslee has enjoyed a rich harvest with his novice chasers this winter and his The Catchpool, who opened his account in promising style at Lingfield Park recently, can capture the Le Gavroche Novices Chase at the expense of Indemolco and Ragged Robin.

The Roux Restaurants Tolworth Hurdle has attracted a small but select field of novices including the runaway Kempton Park runner, Yabis, and David Nicholson's impressive

dual winner this season, Tickie Boo. But I prefer the Jim Jocke-owned Midnight Count, who shows great potential in accounting for Oppidan (a good winner since) by 10 lengths in a big field of novices at Cheltenham last month.

Josh Gifford, Midnight Count's trainer, also holds a strong hand in the opening Andre Lasserre Novices Hurdle, with his Lingfield scorer, Goodman Point, a recruit from Guy Harwood's Flat stable.

Tsarina and El Galileo are also interesting candidates, but Lord Chelsea's Waatage, formerly trained by Dick Hern, won with plenty in hand when making a successful jumping debut at

Hereford, and should be followed. The main event at Haydock Park, the New Year Handicap Chase, has cut up badly to three runners, leaving an excellent opportunity for Monica Dickinson's Branding Iron to collect the spoils following his encour-

aging comeback after a long lay-off behind Newlife Connection at Wetherby in December. The Harwood stable can have another success in the Makerfield Handicap Hurdle with the lightly-raced Belled Boy, who landed a novice event for Mick Lambert last season.

Today's course specialists SANDOWN JOCKEYS: G. Marnagh, 4 winners from 20 races, 20.0%; A. Wabber, 15 from 118, 12.7%; G. McCourt, 5 from 58, 8.6%.

HAYDOCK JOCKEYS: Mrs M. Deacon, 29 winners from 75 races, 38.7%; M. Pegg, 5 from 17, 29.4%; M. Eastwood, 16 from 67, 23.9%.

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Geldings given their chance to run in group one races

Tea group one races have been opened to geldings and Billy Watt, the Richmond trainer, was the first to celebrate.

The new ruling means that his high-class gelding, Teleprompter, winner of the Arlington Million in Chicago, can be aimed at next season's £100,000 Coral Eclipse Stakes at Sandown and possibly the £160,000 Swettenham Stud Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

"I'm thrilled to bits," Watts said. "This should have happened a long time ago. I am proud that Teleprompter's achievements have highlighted the problem and that the change has now been made."

The decision to open up the races was approved by the European Pattern Committee. The five member countries - Britain, Ireland, France, Germany and Italy - agreed that geldings should continue to be excluded from group one races confined to two- and three-year-olds, but each country can now open its races for three-year-olds and upwards to geldings.

Racing commentators have been calling for the inclusion of geldings in group one events for several years and have compared the situation in Europe to that in America, where the gelding John Heary became a national hero with a succession of victories in big prize-money events.

New Watts is hoping for a good year for his star, Teleprompter is currently enjoying a winter break, but will be back in training next week and the Coral Eclipse is the main target. "I am not sure the Goodwood track will suit him, as the Sussex Stakes is only a possibility," Watts said.

Lord Fairhaven, the Senior Steward, said: "We are confident that the inclusion of geldings will give an added impetus to our continuing campaign to promote racing."

The following is the list of races for which the Stewards of the Jockey Club have approved the necessary modifications in conditions to enable geldings to participate from this year: Coronation Cup (Epsom), Ascot Gold Cup, King's Stand Stakes (Royal Ascot), Coral Eclipse Stakes (Sandown Park), Nellorps July Cup (Newmarket), King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (Ascot), Swettenham Stud Sussex Stakes (Goodwood), Gold Cup (formerly Benson and Hedges) (York), William Hill Sprint Championship (York), Dubai Champion Stakes (Newmarket).

Revitalized Bobsline can make light of top weight

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

Supporters of Dawn Run will be disappointed to learn that a confidence-boosting display in the Boyne Handicap Chase at Naas this afternoon, but at a difference of 7lb Kilkilowen could still lack the pace to take the top weight, Bobsline.

Kilkilowen ran twice at Leopardstown last week, but on his second occasion made much less headway to be piped for second place by Buck House behind the four-length winner, Dawn Run.

Haydock inspection

There will be a 6.45am inspection to decide if today's meeting at Haydock Park can go ahead. The forecast is for a severe frost overnight. Frost caused the abandonment of the scheduled meeting at Sedgfield.

delays, but the trainer reports that Bobsline seems to be very well in himself and on display in the fact that he had a rest over Christmas. Fredrieri, twice a winner of the Sussex Handicap, was tapped for early speed at Leopardstown, but ran well to land third place over fences behind Hungary Hur. There does not appear now to be anything in the fact that he has a "chase" capable of getting Fredcour of the bit.

SANDOWN PARK

(Televised: 1.0, 1.30, 2.0, 2.30)

1.0 ANDRE LASSERRE NOVICES HURDLE (4-y-o; £2,545; 2m) (22 runners) MILTON BOY (D) (Mrs S High-Austin) P Mitchell 11-8 ... P Barton

1.30 LE GAVROCHE NOVICES CHASE (E3,298; 2m 4f 68yd) (11) GOLDEN MINSTER (D) (Mrs J Gifford) 7-11-0 ... R Rowe

2.0 ANTHONY MILDREAY, PETER CAZALET MEMORIAL HANICAP CHASE (E10,384; 3m 5f 18yd) (8) OBSERVE (C) (R E A Fox) (Wignora) 8-10-11 ... B de Haan

HAYDOCK PARK

(Televised: 1.15, 1.45, 2.15)

12.45 OLDHAM AMATEURS RIDERS HANICAP CHASE (E2,482; 2m 4f) (19 runners) COLONE (D) (Mrs P Fanning) R Champion 8-10-7 ... Mrs J Carter

Haydock selections

By Mandarin 12.45 Preben Fir, 1.15 Bronco, 1.45 Strands Of Gold, 2.15 Chrysler, 2.45 Brandyman, 3.15 Beethel Bay. Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Chrysler.

1.45 STEEL PLATE & SECTIONS YOUNG CHASERS QUALIFIER

(E2,580; 2m 4f) 1. 208-111 STRANDES OF GOLD (C) (Independent Towing Ltd) P FitzGerald 7-11-1 ... M Dwyer

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2.0 ANTHONY MILDREAY, PETER CAZALET MEMORIAL HANICAP CHASE (E10,384; 3m 5f 18yd) (8) OBSERVE (C) (R E A Fox) (Wignora) 8-10-11 ... B de Haan

HAYDOCK PARK

(Televised: 1.15, 1.45, 2.15)

12.45 OLDHAM AMATEURS RIDERS HANICAP CHASE (E2,482; 2m 4f) (19 runners) COLONE (D) (Mrs P Fanning) R Champion 8-10-7 ... Mrs J Carter

Haydock selections

By Mandarin 12.45 Preben Fir, 1.15 Bronco, 1.45 Strands Of Gold, 2.15 Chrysler, 2.45 Brandyman, 3.15 Beethel Bay. Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Chrysler.

1.45 STEEL PLATE & SECTIONS YOUNG CHASERS QUALIFIER

(E2,580; 2m 4f) 1. 208-111 STRANDES OF GOLD (C) (Independent Towing Ltd) P FitzGerald 7-11-1 ... M Dwyer

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MARRIAGES, DEATHS, BIRTHS. MARRIAGES: On January 3, 1986, at St. Paul's Church, London, the Rev. Canon J. G. ...

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ENTERTAINMENTS

also pages 6 & 30

THEATRES. LYTTLETON 3rd 899. On January 3, 1986, at St. Paul's Church, London, the Rev. Canon J. G. ...

RENTALS

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BIRTHS

ANSEL. On January 2nd, to Gerald and William - a son, Thomas, 500g.

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THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE. ACTION UNLIMITED. FIND OUT WHY WE'RE No. 1 FOR 6-18'S HOLIDAYS.

New US offer on way for Westland

By Judith Huntley

Sikorsky and Fiat, the American and Italian companies, will on Monday make an improved offer for a stake in Westland, the ailing helicopter company, and the new offer will be recommended to shareholders by the Westland board.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, said on the Radio 4 Today programme yesterday: "There is no doubt at the moment in the medium and long term, the shareholders and employees of the company would be better off with the United Technologies-Fiat involvement. The company would achieve much greater stability in the medium and long term and the company really needs it. It has gone through a very rough period."

Members of the Westland board and an American team from the United Technologies Corporation, Sikorsky's parent company, have been in talks since Thursday night. It is expected that Sikorsky-Fiat will on Monday improve its position on work for Westland employees, regarded as a crucial issue in the tussle.

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank acting for Sikorsky, said last night that the US team would stay in Britain and make itself available to shareholders once Westland had made its recommendations. Westland shareholders are due to vote on the rival bids on January 14.

Lloyds, advisers to the European consortium, is lobbying institutional shareholders to obtain a postponement of the meeting. Robert Fleming Nominees, the merchant banking group which is Westland's biggest shareholder, is to meet Lloyds Merchant Bank on Monday to discuss delaying the vote.

The Prime Minister has written to Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on industry: "I do not agree that the national interest would be served by the Government acquiring a substantial holding in the Westland company. The board of Westland have given their view that the company's future lies in association with a substantial international business."

Soviet plea to stamp out 'warnography'

From Christopher Walker Moscow

Invoking the spirit of Geneva, leading figures in the Soviet arts yesterday joined senior Kremlin officials in demanding an end to the "crudely distorted" image of the Soviet Union and its citizens which, they claimed, was being presented in a wave of anti-Communist films sweeping the US box office.

Speaking at a press conference called by the Foreign Ministry to mark the reopening of US-Soviet cultural exchanges after a gap of six years, Mr Georgy Ivanov, the Deputy Cultural Minister, said that it was hard to reconcile this wave of anti-Soviet feeling with the improved climate demonstrated by the exchange of New Year messages between Mr Gorbachov and President Reagan.

The maverick Soviet poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, who has recently found favour with Moscow cultural establishments, coined the English word "warnography" to describe the type of film criticized by the panel, which also included a leading composer, film-maker and choreographer.

Mr Ivanov singled out *Rambo*, a film about an anti-Communist veteran who goes back to Vietnam. *Rocky II*, about an American boxer defeating a villainous Soviet opponent, and *Amerika*, a 16-hour television series which he said was being filmed in America, depicting the country devastated by Soviet military occupation.

"People in America are being brought up to believe that 'Reds' and Russians can only be talked to with the language of force", the Deputy Minister said. "A new generation of Americans is being brought up to consider killing as something natural, or even necessary."

He cited two recent US opinion polls to support the plea from Moscow for a change in attitudes. One showed ordinary Americans picking three words, "aggressive", "insensitive" and "perfidious" when asked to describe Russians.

The other, said to have been published in *The New York Times*, showed that 44 per cent of those questioned did not know that the United States and the Soviet Union were allies during the Second World War.

Mr Ivanov alleged that the anti-Soviet campaign in the United States had invented a

new type of screen hero, an ideologically-motivated professional killer. "This new hero kills 'reds' and Russians not for money, but with a kind of perverse relish", he told the televised news conference.

Mr Stanislav Kostovskiy, a leading Soviet film director, claimed that the Soviet film industry would not retaliate with the production of a similar-style of film, which would "create hatred" for the American people. Films like *Rambo*, he added, were "sacrilege" to the memory of colleagues who had died fighting fascism.

All members of the panel called for increased cultural exchanges under the new Geneva agreement as a method of overcoming misunderstanding on both sides. "If people can get acquainted through literature it will help to prevent the pressing of the nuclear button", Mr Yevtushenko argued.

The poet-turned-film-maker (his film *Kindergarten* is soon to open in the United States) submitted a number of ideas for future exchanges with the US, including a 10-day film festival in each country and a joint poetry festival.

He recalled that he had once recited with Robert Frost in a Moscow student restaurant.



Rocky and his massive Soviet opponent, Drago, eyeing each other with barely-contained hostility in *Rocky IV*.



Sylvester Stallone's *Rambo*, "a new type of screen hero, an ideologically-motivated killer".

Orders generate 2,800 jobs

Continued from page 1

creates about 800 jobs at Cammell Laird, its present workforce is about 1,300. The total cost of all four submarines, including equipment supplied by the Ministry of Defence, will be about £500 million.

The orders for the diesel vessels were placed with Vickers after competitive tenders had been submitted by them and by the Clyde-side shipyards Scott Lithgow and Yarrow. Mr Lamont estimated that about £10 million had been saved on the price of the vessels through competitive tendering, and a further £10 million by placing all orders with a single group.

It was, he said, "a clear example of the success we are having with the Government's new policies for defence procurement".

Although Mr Lamont denied that it had affected the Government's decision, the placing of the orders will undoubtedly make privatization

of Vickers this spring a more attractive proposition for potential bidders.

Even though the Scottish shipyards failed to win any of the submarine orders, Mr Lamont announced that subject to satisfactory negotiations it was intended to place orders worth about £10 million with Scott Lithgow for a range of moving vessels and two lighters. The yard would also be invited to bid for refit work, and for steel work on the Trident submarines, as a sub-contractor of Vickers.

The order for torpedoes is for more than 2,000 Stingrays to be built by Marconi Underwater Systems at a cost of nearly £400 million.

Mr Don Egan, managing director of the company, said the contract would create more than 2,000 jobs among sub-contractors, and nearly 70 companies had tendered.

Mr Lamont said that in negotiations the ministry had achieved a good price for this contract, and through placing a

single bulk order rather than a series of batches savings of well over £50 million had been achieved.

The contract will be subject to stringent conditions. It is estimated that about 75 per cent of the value will be in items bought from outside suppliers by Marconi, and 75 per cent of those will be subject to competitive tendering.

There was bitter disappointment on the Lower Clyde yesterday at the decision to place the three submarine orders at English yards and up to 400 more redundancies are now unavoidable at the Scot Lithgow yard, Ronald Fox writes.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday that it would have been too costly to divide the submarine order between different yards.

The workforce at Scot Lithgow has been cut in recent years from 6,000 to 2,000 with the latest redundancies announced just before Christmas.

Pensioners robbed five times over Christmas

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

A couple in their 80s living on a south London estate were burgled five times over the Christmas period. During the attacks on their home they were also beaten, Scotland Yard disclosed yesterday.

The burglaries were not reported by the couple, who do not have a telephone, and they were rescued after a midman found them injured.

Mr Henry Beaton, aged 87, of Maskell Close, St Martin's Estate,ulse Hill, and his wife Violet, aged 84, were said to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital yesterday.

Their home was first burgled sometime between December 20 and 21, and then between December 23 and 24, December 30-31, New Year's Eve, and early on New Year's Day. In the attack on the afternoon of New Year's Eve the couple were threatened with a handgun by the burglars, who took their doorkeys and £30 in cash.

At 1 am on New Year's Day between two and four youths broke into the flat and held the couple for about six hours. Mr Beaton received broken ribs, bruising and a head wound. He was told that his toes would be cut off.

Yesterday as police began searching the estate after interviewing the couple a suspect was approached. He became violent and other youths became involved with police. A police dog handler was taken to King's College Hospital, south London, with a head injury.

Five adults and a juvenile were held by police. One was arrested as a suspected burglar, three for assaulting police and two for obstructing police.

Move to stop office smokers

The Health and Safety at Work Act may be used to eliminate tobacco smoke from offices and factories. Environmentalists in Birmingham are studying the Act to see if it can be used against cigarette smoke in the same way as it is used against other pollutants, in order to protect the health of non-smokers.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Mo. to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends Jan 25).

New exhibition: Matisse: illustrations from Roussard, Tournaige Wells Art Gallery.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,930. A crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

Music

Concert by the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Handel's Messiah by the Bourne-mouth Sinfonietta; Westex Hall, Poole, 7.30.

Concert by the Academy of St Olave's; St Olave's, Margate, York, 7.30.

Concert by the Sub Rosa Quartet; Tudor Merchants Hall, Westgate St, Southampton, 7.30.

Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.

Concert by the Irish Youth Orchestra; White Hall, Queen's University, Belfast, 7.30.

Concert by the Anderson Collection of art; Weston Park, Sheffield, Sun 2 to 5.

Twenty-nine etchings by Edouard Manet; Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool, 2 to 5.

Music: Congregational carol service including a Nativity play performed by the Kingston Community Play Association, Canterbury Cathedral, 6.30.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Birth: James Usher, Archbishop of Armagh, chronologist who dated the world's creation at 4004 BC, Dublin, 1581; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Jesi, Italy, 1710.

1876: Louis Braille, inventor of the system of that name, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1813; Augustus John, painter, Tenby, 1876.

Deaths: Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington Middlesex, 1761; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate, 1928, Paris, 1941; Albert Camus, novelist, Sens, France, 1960; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Vienna, 1961; C S Lewis, 1945; Donald Campbell, killed when his speedboat crashed on Coniston Water, Cumbria, 1967.

TOMORROW: Birth: Konrad Adenauer, 1st Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1949-63, Cologne, 1876; Hammett Wolfe, poet, Milan, 1886.

Deaths: Saint Edward the Confessor, reigned 1042-66, London, 1066; Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, explorer, South Georgia, Antarctica, 1922.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$, Austria Sch, Belgium Fr, Canada \$, Denmark Kr, France F, Germany DM, Hong Kong \$, Japan Yen, Netherlands Gld, Norway Kr, Portugal Esc, South Africa Rd, Spain Ptas, Sweden Kr, Switzerland Fr, USA \$, Yugoslavia Dnr.

Retail Price Index: 378.4. London: The FT index closed up 11.1 at 1145.5.

In the garden

The cold spell may have persuaded worms on lawns to burrow well below the surface. In cold or dry weather they may descend to a depth of three feet or more. Sweep off any remaining worm casts.

Worms do not live in acid soils. If there are any in your lawn make a note to start giving dressings of an acid fertilizer such as sulphate of ammonia or sulphate of iron in March to bring it into an acid condition - pH 5 is fine for lawns.

Large numbers of electric propagators were given as Christmas presents and the recipients are no doubt keen to put them to work. This you may well do to root cuttings of ivy, tradescantia and other foliage plants. But unless you have a heated greenhouse or conservatory do not rush to sow seeds of tender half-hardy plants. Be guided by the advice on the packet or in the catalogue. If you sow too soon you may well end up with hundreds of seedlings and nowhere to keep them until it is safe to plant them on.

Try to keep a small area of a pool surface free from ice if there are fish in the pool. Do not break the ice by hitting it. Stand a kettle of hot water on the ice to melt a hole and if the pool is not too big hole out enough water to leave an inch or so of air between the ice and the water. Lay some wire netting or canvas across the hole and cover it with sackcloth or thick plastic sheeting. Ensure this cover is not weighed down by snow as it may freeze again, if it touches the water.

Alternatively install one of the small electric pool heaters which will keep an area free from ice large enough for fish to come to the surface to breathe.

Keep a sharp eye open for traces of mice in sheds.

Roads

London and South-East: Gas repairs mean no left turn into Victoria St at the junction with Brompton Road, SW1, between 10.30 and 11.30 am. Brompton Road closed at junction with Goy St, single lane traffic out towards St. James's Park. Temporary traffic lights (pl. boards) on Hill Rd, Staines.

The North: M61: Blisworth Junction. M61/M6: Construction of new motorway link on M61, Watton north, lane closures. A16: Full closure of the S Yorks/Leeds/Doncaster. Sheffield: 1st road until March 1986. M62/M63/M65: Scales Interchange, Greater Manchester: Lane restrictions M6 of Barton Bridge, in preparation for widening of both bridge approaches.

South: A96: Aberdeen Two sets of roadworks are causing delays on the Great North Rd, at Don St end of Anderson Drive: the roadworks are in connection with the dual carriageway construction which is affecting Aberdeen road. A76: Eastwood services. Any delay between M6 (junction 5) and A76 (Pitheadway) controlled on westbound carriageway. Information supplied by the AA.

Times world-wide

Noon in London is 7 am in New York; 4 am in San Francisco; 9 pm in Tokyo; 11 pm in Canberra; 2 pm in Johannesburg; 4 pm in United Arab Emirates; 3 pm in Kinshasa; 1 pm in Hanoi; 3 pm in Moscow; 8 pm in Hong Kong.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Country, Depth (cm), Conditions, Off, Piste, Runs to, Weather, Temp. Rows include Austria, France, Switzerland, and Germany.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 12).

Table showing stock price changes for various companies: Anglo, BHP, British Airways, British Petroleum, British Telecom, British Water, British Airways, British Petroleum, British Telecom, British Water, British Airways, British Petroleum, British Telecom, British Water.

Weather forecast

London, SE England, East Angles: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind mainly SW, occasional gusts to 40 mph.

Central and West: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind mainly SW, occasional gusts to 40 mph.

North: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind mainly SW, occasional gusts to 40 mph.

South: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind mainly SW, occasional gusts to 40 mph.

West: Dry and bright, but outbreaks of rain or sleet later; wind mainly SW, occasional gusts to 40 mph.

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High tides

Table showing high tide times for various locations: London Bridge, Aberdeen, Abernethy, Belfast, Cardiff, Dover, Falmouth, Harwich, Holyhead, Hull, Inverness, Liverpool, Lowestoft, Margate, Milford Haven, Newport, Penzance, Portland, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wexford.

Lighting-up time

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations: London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wexford.

Yesterday

Table showing weather conditions for various locations: London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wexford.

Highest and lowest

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations: London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Swansea, Tynemouth, Wexford.

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, about 1.5; F, 48.7.

Around Britain

Table showing weather conditions for various locations: Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Harrogate, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Wolverhampton.

Abroad

Table showing weather conditions for various countries: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, USSR, Yugoslavia.

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 31

4-10 January 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Troubled times on paradise island

Radio's Desert Island Discs returns

tomorrow. But under Michael Parkinson it will be far less cosy than before. Even the choice of the first guest provoked some disagreement, as Bryan Appleyard reveals

Bruce Oldfield, dress designer to the likes of Joan Collins and the Princess of Wales, is facing Michael Parkinson, the new presenter of Radio 4's Desert Island Discs. They are having a pre-recording chat and "Parky" brings up the subject of the royal connections.

Suddenly deadly serious after all the mild banter, Oldfield leans forward and mutters urgently across the green baize table. "Don't ask me any direct questions about that. I know that the Queen listens to this programme and you know how cross she can get." Oldfield has clearly felt the lash of the royal tongue before.

Parkinson absorbs this with a wry smile. The recording gets under way. Oldfield is anxious that he has still not worked out the one luxury he is allowed on the island, but otherwise he is fluent and confident... almost cocky.

But Parkinson has scented blood and, sure enough, up comes the question about dressing people like Princess Diana and Joan Collins. He attempts, not entirely successfully, to exude the air of a man who has just plucked any two names out of the air.

Oldfield is definitely rattled now, but he manages: "You mean from Joan?" He waves an index finger in angry rebuke. The guard is now up and, even after a few more record breaks, Oldfield is clearly on the look out for more of the same. But Parkinson is a seasoned gunner who has found his range; he measures his next shot flawlessly.

Coming in straight from a musical break, the Yorkshire accent at its flattest and most calculatedly philistine, he takes aim and fires: "Now, dress designing. Is it a proper job?" The Oldfield face drops and he bungles badly, coming up with a lame answer about how hard he works - "up to 10 hours a week just on promotion."

The recording ends. The luxury settled upon was an endless supply of cigarettes and the book, apart from the Bible and Shakespeare, was J. P. Donleavy's The Desires of Darcy Dancer, Gentleman. As we file out of the sound engineer's box Parkinson bursts out of the studio and grabs me by the elbow. His eyes are those of a hunter after a successful kill. He had sweetly, smilingly and amiably "turned over" Oldfield and he knew it.

"Can you have a word with him?" He flicks his head in the direction of the producer Derek Drescher who, mercifully, cannot hear what is going on.

Unfortunately, a slightly shocked Drescher had already confided in me: "I don't think we can really start with this one." The poor man had produced the show for 10 years with Ploimley. Now he was obviously glimpsing the possibility that one of the coziest and most amiable jobs in broadcasting was in serious danger.

Parkinson was threatening to detonate the formula. Drescher intended to open with a programme which Parkinson had already recorded with film director Alan Parker. It had - so the public relations story goes - some sentimental value as Parker was to have been the next Ploimley castaway.

In fact even the Parker interview had broken the old Ploimley mould. Parkinson had known the director of Midnight Express and Birdy for some time and had steered him on to the subject of the state of the British film industry. Parker had been usefully controversial, denying the existence of any revival and generally pouring cold water on the usual movie hype. It was just that bit more explosive than anything Ploimley would have tried.

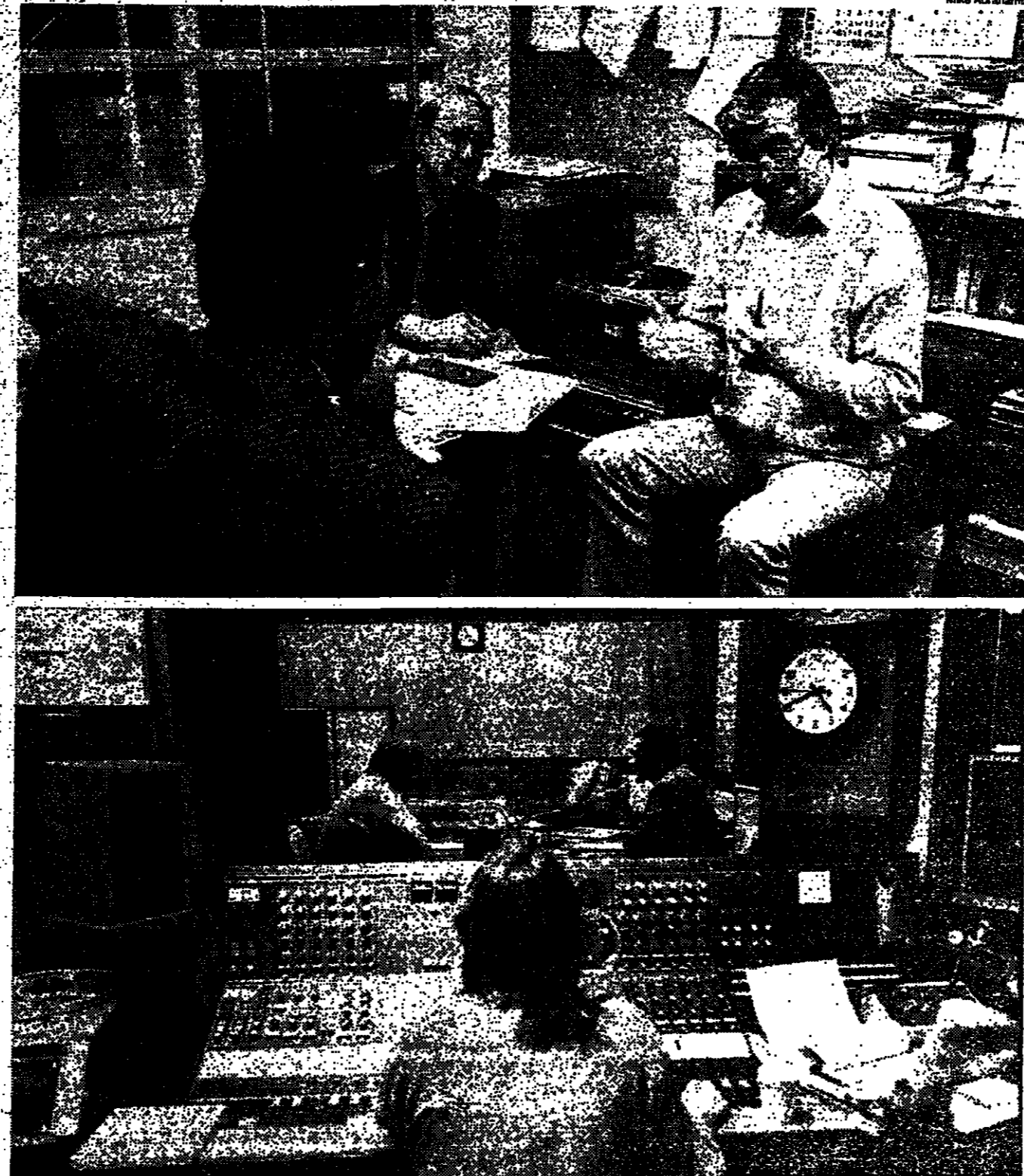
But all this was becoming a bit like intruding on private grief. There was little, under the circumstances, I could do for Parkinson. I made my excuses and left.

During a telephone conversation a few weeks later, it became clear that Parkinson had grown weary of the whole issue. "What does it matter who kicks off? The sooner this becomes just another radio programme the better."

Throughout December Parkinson had been rushing to record a whole 14-show series of DDD. Even this was in contrast with Ploimley who had jugged along at a steady one or two recordings a week. He used to take the castaways out to lunch. Parkinson has abandoned even that. The problem is that he plans to spend three months from January watching cricket in Australia and the West Indies. So the programmes had to be sewn up by the New Year.

Ploimley died in the spring and the decision was immediately taken to go on with the show. It was among the oldest programmes in the world and among the most loved. It had a warm combination of calm, obsequious chat and the mild thrill of guessing what records, luxuries and books the guests would choose. It was the essence of Radio 4, or more correctly, the Home Service, and it steadily drew one million listeners.

But Ploimley was the programme. He sold institutional quality arose from his friendly style and his complete inability to conduct an interview. His genial inquiries were predictable and designed solely to elicit a narrative on the most conventional possible view. There was never a difficult question and certainly no professional trickery. Roy Ploimley never "turned over" anybody and he remains one of the few people who could be heard smiling on radio.



Shore touch: Parkinson rehearses with Bruce Oldfield (left) and Derek Drescher (centre) before the real interview (below)

list of Parky's intimates. Nobody is about to get "turned over". He has all the non-style of wealthy middle-aged broadcasters - cavalry twill trousers, a pullover whose pattern matches his socks, a leather jacket and a salt-beef sandwich.

We plough through the list of music which Dankworth has sent them in advance. Drescher plays the records too loudly through his Marantz stereo and times them with his stop-watch. Every piece draws out anecdotes at which Parkinson laughs in his familiar all-boys-together style.

That process over, we stroll over to Broadcasting House for the recording. Parkinson is insistently keen to establish that he wants to be different from Ploimley. He, for example, wants Arthur Scargill as a guest - difficult to imagine him responding to the gentle interest of good old Roy.

The desert island itself is a green baize table surrounded by padded turquoise screens in one corner of an enormous studio. There is not so much as a cardboard palm tree to give a little atmosphere. During the recording, they do not even play the records. This annoys Parkinson, who keeps moaning about having to pick up the

interview by referring to the preceding unheard music. But the sound engineer is perfect. He was obviously born inside Broadcasting House and has never been anywhere else. He is a young version of the vintage BBC buff and he still has his school name-tag on his battered brief case - "P.C. Hutchinson".

The show goes smoothly enough. It is not like Ploimley in that Parkinson seems less interested in the whole life story and the tone is less deferential. But it is cosy.

Dankworth dealt with, we go in search of lunch. Parkinson knows of a Chinese restaurant but it is full. He stands for a while in front of the waiter to ensure he has been recognized, but the man remains inscrutable and the restaurant remains full.

Everybody drinks except Parkinson, yet even so he begins to loosen up in some mysterious way. He launches into some predictable criticisms of Terry Wogan - guests reduced to ciphers, too big for his boots and so on, all combined with the usual disclaimers - "of course Terry's a lovely guy."

Drescher leaves to start work with Oldfield, but Parkinson is warming to his theme and he stays over several more coffees to discuss the vicissitudes of broadcasting life.

Back at Drescher's office Oldfield has significantly raised the sartorial stakes - double-breasted black and white herring-bone jacket, black suede shoes and Paisley-pattern tie.

He is choice of records - complete with serial numbers - had arrived neatly typed on Bruce Oldfield headed notepaper. But there is some trouble about the right order which nettles Parkinson. He keeps dragging the conversation back to practicalities while Drescher and Oldfield mutter about precisely which piece is required from The Magic Flute.

Eventually we start the trek to a studio - this time it is smaller and there is no P. C. Hutchinson. Instead there is a girl of the genus "Islington" who priggishly cuts off the overheard conversation about the Royals and sneers "got your story then?" at the gentleman of the press. She also completes Parkinson and Oldfield's sentences and their grammar for the benefit of those in the box during the recording. Come

AND JUST ONE LUXURY?

Castaways are allowed one object of their choice.

After 43 years the beaches are littered...

There have been a few defeatists along the way. Bandleader Billy Cotton chose as his one luxury a ticket home and pianist Sir Clifford Curzon took along a pill to put him to sleep for ever. By and large, however, the desert island has become what it was never intended to be - a monument to self-indulgence.

With Marti Caine in her bubble bath, Janet Suzman in mink-lined hammock and Helen Mirren in silk underwear, it is scarcely surprising that most of the scores of field glasses and telescopes have, over the years of Desert Island Discs, been chosen by men - among them, A. F. Herbert, Eamonn Andrews, Ronald Scott, Robertson Hare, Sir Arthur Bliss, David Attenborough and Fred Treman.

Allowing for the immortality of its occupants, the all-pervading aroma on the island is that of expensive perfume brought by Jessie Matthews, Alicia Markova, Felicity Kendal and, surprisingly, John Osborne.

Ever since Spike Hughes bowled up with a barrel of wine in January, 1952, the sound of drunken merriment has become steadily louder. C. Day Lewis, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gregory Peck, and Sir Robin Day have kept the cellars topped up (actor Hugh Williams remembered mercifully to bring a corkscrew) while whisky has been laid on by R. C. Sherriff, Burl Ives, Daphne du Maurier, Lord Shinwell, the Marquess of Bath and Kingsley Amis, apricot brandy by Sir Alec Guinness and vodka by Terry Wogan.

If Superintendent Robert Fabian of Scotland Yard dared to emerge from under his umbrella he would have little difficulty in solving some outrageous thefts. Scattered around the island are Valerie Hobson with the Albert Memorial, Osbert Lancaster with Venus de Milo, Tyrone Power with Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, Kenneth Williams with Michelangelo's Apollo, Lionel Bart with Neilson's Column and Joan Foun-

taine, perhaps most daringly of all, with the Taj Mahal. Several castaways, however, are only here for the sleep. Among those who arrived with their own bed are Evelyn Laye, Sid James, bandleader Ray Ellington (with mosquito net), Baroness Summerskill (four-poster), David Niven and Margaret Leighton with her old Girl Guide camp bed.

What some of them realized was that sleep on the island is almost impossible - the whole place is shaking to the sound of music.

The orchestra is, to say the least, unusually composed, with Yehudi Menuhin, Max Jaffa, Frank Muir and James Herriot on violin; Pat Smythe, John Gregson, Mary Wilde, Harry Carpenter and Bing Crosby (guitars); Jimmy Edwards (euphonium); Henry Williamson (cor anglais); H. E. Bates (banjo); James Mason (bagpipes) and Humphrey Lyttelton, Valentine Dyal and Gareth Edwards on trumpet.

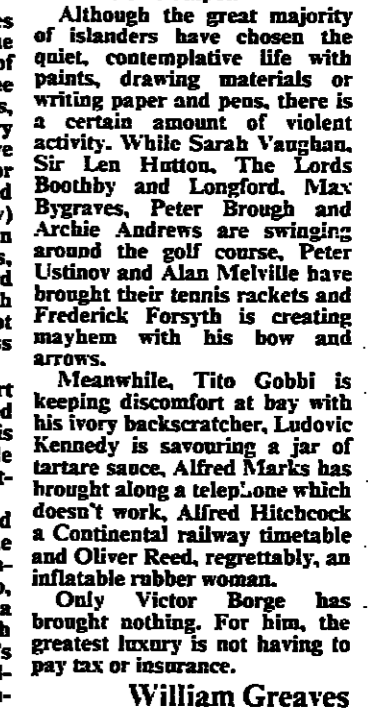
Although the great majority of islanders have chosen the quiet, contemplative life with paints, drawing materials or writing paper and pens, there is a certain amount of violent activity. While Sarah Vaughan, Sir Len Hutton, The Lords Boothby and Longford, Max Bygrave, Peter Brough and Archie Andrews are swinging around the golf course, Peter Ustinov and Alan Melville have brought their tennis rackets and Frederick Forsyth is creating mayhem with his bow and arrows.

Meanwhile, Tito Gobbi is keeping discomfort at bay with his ivory backscratcher, Ludovic Kennedy is savouring a jar of tartare sauce, Alfred Marks has brought along a telephone which doesn't work, Alfred Hitchcock a Continental railway timetable and Oliver Reed, regrettably, an inflatable rubber woman.

Only Victor Borge has brought nothing. For him, the greatest luxury is not having to pay tax or insurance.

William Greaves

Alan Parker (above) is the guest on the first Desert Island Discs of the new series, on Radio 4 tomorrow from 12.15pm-12.55pm.



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SATURDAY

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

On horseback to the rose-red city

BACK OF BEYOND Continuing his occasional series on far-flung places, Michael Watkins heads for Jordan, a land of holy tombs and pagan shrines, where 'welcome' is the universal greeting and the dramas of the past are etched in the desert rock



TRAVEL NOTES
Specialists in Jordan: Jasmin Tours, High Street, Cockham, Maidenhead, Berks SL5 9SQ (06285-29444). Flights to Amman by Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan requires that your passport contains no Israeli immigration stamps, insisting that you obtain a new passport if such stamps exist. You also need a Jordanian visa, which can be issued at Amman Airport on arrival for about £11. Horses and guide at Petra: £12. Two can dine for £20-25; beer £2 a glass; gin and tonic £3.50; local wine about £5.
Best times to travel: April-June; September-October.
Useful reading: *The Antiquities of Jordan* by G. Lankester Harding (Lutterworth Press, £8); *Feet of Jordan and the Holy Land*, £10.80. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T. E. Lawrence.

I rode into Petra on a horse called Sahar, and it was foul, the weather was exquisitely foul. Anyone can enter Petra on a fine day. That takes no skill at all for most days are fine. The day I chose was God-sent, or at least the gift of lesser Nabatean deities who haunt this spot, and their message seemed ominous, containing stinging phrases like "go back". Gusts of cruelty drove through the Siq, so that the rain slanted in sabre cuts. Fallahat, my Bedouin guide, was unaffected; it was less than nothing to him. Not once did he turn in his saddle, his assumption that I followed was total. So follow I did, dwarfed by the Siq, the tortuous cleft, sole entrance to the canyon in which the Nabateans created a city by carving houses and temples out of variegated rock around 800 BC. A unique city, built, abandoned at the time of the Crusaders and rediscovered by chance in 1812 by an Anglo-Swiss explorer, John Burckhardt.

"A rose-red city - half as old as Time!"; and rose-red it was, justifying the cliché. Half as old as Time was a lie, for Time is very old indeed. Older than Aaron whose tomb caps nearby Mount Hor; older than Moses himself where, at Wadi Musa, he struck the rock and water gushed forth. I believed it too, as I would have believed anything of Petra whose effect was chimerical: monstrous and beautiful, part heaven, part hell. I would not have the courage to sleep there alone at night, beneath the High Place of Sacrifice on Mount Nejr - where the devil walks in no place for man. I say this and yet Petra was irresistibly an emotional magnet. Twisting and turning from building to building, from the Treasury to the Urn Tomb, from the Corinthian Tomb to the Florentine Tomb, it felt that I was being manipulated. I hate heights, they scare me; but in order to see the ruins of Petra you must climb several

cliffs and mountains within the canyon. Leaving the horses, we began a 45-minute haul to the Monastery of Deir carved in the third century AD to the Nabatean god Dhu-shara. As if this wasn't enough Fallahat, gesturing me to match foothold for foothold, started swarming up the rock-face of the monastery itself, spread-eagling his arms to find a grip. By what miracle I do not know, but we stood side by side on the dome, looking towards Sinai, the Negev and the Biblical lands of Canaan.

Apart from the Rest House, the only accommodation for miles was the Forum Hotel at Wadi Musa, a township of 8,000 souls and 400 horses. It was not a jazzy hotel, it moulded itself into the barren surround, neon-less. It had been open a couple of years and its manager watched it take shape, it was almost a living thing to him, but he was becoming Petrified and had to tear himself away. We talked as he poured me an industrial measure of gin in his house. He said that "Little Petra" was just as special as Petra itself, inviting me to join him on an expedition the next day.

Because he knew archaeologist Diana Kirkbride, we paused to see her excavations at Beida, a site considered as important as Jericho. The oldest inhabitants, circa 7,000 BC, built here, developed crafts, ground grain; and we looked into those houses, unearthed beneath the

sky, arguably the oldest houses in the world. Beyond Beida was "Little Petra", so called because it is all I have so far described in miniature, its secret better contained by remoteness and by an ancient guard, Mihimmid Amaria, a trusty Arab and honest, according to his reference signed by Diana Kirkbride.

Three days earlier I'd flown into Amman. It should have been light, but the Royal Jordanian Airline was four hours late; so the day had turned cel-black. The long drive into the capital was like being blindfolded. There was nothing tactile about that drive, nor was where the post-office was, walk heading into a plate-glass door. "Welcome" was the universal response.

The day was half-done by then, still time to belt down to the shores of the Dead Sea, 1,306ft below sea level. In Arabic it is called Bahr Lut, the Sea of Lot. I have seen it many

times from the other side, but from no angle can I be persuaded that it has any redeeming feature. On the Israeli side there are one or two hotels; and they are awful. Along the road were wistful signposts pointing to Jerusalem; there were mine-fields too, marked by skull and cross-bones. He was still there next morning when I drew my hotel room curtains on the 18th floor; a shepherd tending a straggly flock on a patch of land encircled by mortar. I'd watched him since arriving, a figure from the past, an anachronism of small relevance in Amman. Yet as recently as 1932 this capital city was "little



Pillars of strength: columns in the forum at Jerash, founded by Alexander the Great

far as I could tell, were Jordanian. A replete-looking family group invited me to turn their own Yashica on them in a kind of photographic *hara-kiri*; and when I did they said "Welcome". It was the one English word with which the entire population seemed familiar; ask where the post-office was, walk heading into a plate-glass door. "Welcome" was the universal response.

We looked into houses built in 7000 BC - the oldest in the world

Had the car seized on another three hours or so we'd have arrived in Damascus, where I'd have turned right heading towards the Syrian desert caravan resting place along the old silk route known as Palmyra. Where Jerash was tamed, domesticated by the modern town around it, Palmyra still belongs to the desert, to the god Bel and to raw elements. Like Petra, it is bewitched; inexplicable currents are abroad, it does not do to flout them for fear of reprisal. There was nothing of the sort about the 12th-century hill fortress of Ajlun, sometimes mistaken for a Crusader castle. But Qal'at er-Rabad was built as a defence against Crusaders; it dominates a 4,000ft mountain overlooking the Jordan Valley and the land of Gilead. There were many people there: all, as

more than an overgrown village"; so far from denying the shepherd his pasture, there is every likelihood that he or his kin will be around long after Amman returns to the wilderness to which it once belonged.

The English and the Arabs get on because we are both devious

The Roman theatre is there, marvellously restored, but much of the rest, is a dreary, utilitarian hodge-podge. There are two roads south: the Desert Highway and the King's Road. The guide-book said Petra was three hours by the former, eight by the latter; so I took the latter. I made three stops: the first at Madaba to see, in the Greek Orthodox Church, the 6th-century AD mosaic map of Palestine and Jordan, which includes a street plan of Jerusalem at the time. The second was six miles north, at Mount Nebo, because on a clear day you can see the Mount of Olives and because it is one of the alleged sites of Moses's tomb. The third stop, 75 miles on at Kerak or Crak des

Moabites, was the massive Crusader castle which held the Muslim armies at polite distance until, in 1189, Saladin took it. From here on, through Wadi Wala and Wadi Mujib, the going was pure drama, a pictorial Bible opened page by page all the way to Petra. After Petra, before striking the sea at Aqaba, there was Wadi Rum, the silent desert. Known as the Valley of the Moon, the route taken by Lawrence and the Sheriff of Mecca in the Arab Revolt. I turned up in Aqaba, 69 years behind Lawrence. He wrote that it was "... dirty and

contemptible, lacking entirely in that dignity which the durability of their time-challenging bones conferred on ancient remains. Ah, yes, well, stayed at the Holiday Inn because it was the best in town. Ships unloaded the toys of war, and they were trucked away, whining along the road to Baghdad. The tourists had migrated north, to Basel and Bremen; it was too hot for them, they are not devious enough to enjoy discomfort. Which is why we, the English and the Arabs - peripherally if no more - get on; why there is a touch of El Lawrence in many of us; because we are both devious, we're good at being devious. It is in our blood.

TRAVEL NEWS

Pay now, go easy

Two companies, Superbreak Mini-Holidays and Inter-Hotel, have combined to offer a pre-paid "go-as-you-please" hotel-accommodation voucher scheme aimed at independent travellers, particularly those planning a motoring holiday. It covers more than 400 hotels in Britain, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium. Each voucher costs £42 and provides one night's accommodation for two people in a twin room, including service, VAT and a complimentary telephone call to arrange the following night's accommodation. It also includes full breakfast in Britain (except London) and Ireland or Continental breakfast elsewhere. Reservations can be made only one day in advance and the vouchers are not refundable. Information from Superbreak (01-278 0383), or Inter-Hotel (01-373 3241).

Liberal savings
The new liberalized air agreement between the British and Dutch governments has resulted in British Airways cutting fares on the busy London-Amsterdam route. The Saver fare will be cut by £10 to £99 return and the Super Saver fare by £22 to £69 return. The £55 Late Saver return fare is retained at its present level.

Combined sea-fares between the UK and Denmark, Sweden and Germany are to be available for the first time in 1986. Travel is by DFDS Seaways' North Sea ferry services in one direction and by scheduled services of British Airways, Air UK and SAS Scandinavian Airlines in the other. Fares between London and Copenhagen range between £200 and £250 return according to season and include the rail journey to or from Harwich and Esbjerg. Combined sea-air fares are also available on DFDS services to Gothenburg and Hamburg.

Flying licences
The Civil Aviation Authority has reminded holidaymakers planning a charter flight-based holiday to ensure that the tour operator holds a valid Air Travel Organizer's Licence (ATOL). An ATOL is also needed for some holidays based on scheduled flights. An explanatory leaflet published by the CAA, *What is an ATOL?*, is being distributed to citizens' advice bureaux, consumer advice centres and ABTA-member travel agents. Free copies are also available from the CAA, Printing and Publication Section, PO Box 42, Cheltenham Gloucestershire.

Frozen assets
Holidays in Latin America will be cheaper this year, according to a specialist operator, South American Travel. The company has frozen most of its prices and has introduced shorter duration packages, with prices starting at £635 for an inclusive 10-day holiday in Rio. The company is offering tours to almost every country on the South American continent, including Argentina. Information: 01-833 2641.

Philip Ray



Through the Siq: the tortuous approach to Petra

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THE NORWEGIAN EXPERIENCE

TRAVEL

Shona Crawford Peole reports on Davos and keeps a weather eye on bargain breaks, while Richard Williams falls for Schladming

Finding your ski legs in Switzerland

Davos boasts the first T-bar in the world. It is also the venue for the annual Anglo-Swiss parliamentary ski race...

other across the town. With a score of 19 black lines on the piste map, there are plenty of options for interest...

scientific citizens for collecting pooch poop. Trains connect sensibly with buses and ski lifts...

TRAVEL NOTES

Tailor-made Ski Tours, Elymshead House, Farnleigh Wick, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PZ (0225 855598)...



Fresh fields: recent snowfalls have improved conditions

The lowdown on Austria

It is said that no man will admit to being a poor performer in bed or at the steering wheel. I will go further. I am no good on T-bars, either.

stream of ascending eight-year-olds and grandmothers. Since this was practically the last thing that happened to me at the end of four days in Schladming...

manageable by intermediates. On our visit though, the bare final section had been covered a day or two before by artificial snow...

TRAVEL NOTES

I stayed in Schladming at the four-star Sporthotel Rayer, where Thomas Cook offers half-board terms ranging from £295 for seven nights in low season to £635 for 14 nights in mid-February.

Pocket guide

Bargain hunters in the January ski holiday sales will find some exceptional buys this year. The reason is a happy conjunction of weather and school holidays.

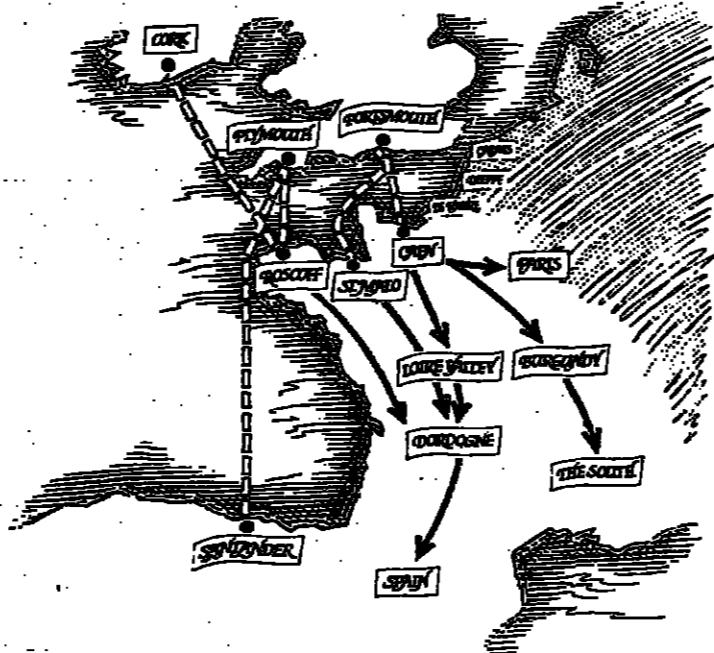
buildings and to employing the chalet girls. Not only do they want to sell the beds, but chalets are invariably in the best resorts.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Jane's home of hidden emotions

The Austen house at Chawton, where six great novels were completed, still seems a happy family home, as Nigel Andrew reports



Austen atmosphere: Jane (above right) is said to have planted the oak tree by the road

Chawton is one of those rare places that have less traffic now than 200 years ago. Then it was right on the main road to Portsmouth...

Jane, no doubt, would have made the breakfast - that was her major domestic duty - and no doubt later in the day she would have sat at her little table in the same room and done some writing...

It was Jane's brother Edward, informally adopted into the wealthy Knight family, who offered his mother and sisters the Cottage (with six bedrooms) near his Chawton seat...

occupied much of Mrs Austen's time. She would potter about in a green smock-frock, like a labourer's Jane's interest in gardening was more theoretical...

Inside the house, the first thing that strikes you is the atmosphere: the life the Austens lived here must, one feels, have been particularly happy and comfortable...

Only Jane really knew how much they mattered, and her creative and emotional life remains essentially hidden from us. What we do know is that her

writing made her little enough money: after a financially cautious life, she died worth £561.7s.

The Stamp Office certificate to that effect is on a wall at Chawton, and so is another more amusing certificate. This is a marriage registration form from Steventon, her father's parish...

This kind of playfulness came naturally to Jane, who was popular with children and a dab hand with such contemporary playthings as spillikins and cup-and-ball - both of which are to be seen at the house.

Then there is the very pretty patchwork quilt to which mother and daughters all contributed. Many of the letters displayed are well worth poring over, particularly for Jane's more private side...

In the bedroom Jane shared with Cassandra is the original fireplace by which she took her final leave of her nieces Caroline and Anne. As Caroline afterwards recalled: "Pointing to seats which had been arranged for us by the fire, she said, 'There's a chair for the married lady, and a little stool for you, Caroline.' - It is strange, but those trifling words are the last of hers that I remember..."

Shortly afterwards the ailing Jane Austen left for Winchester, where she died at the age of 41. As you stand by that fireplace at Chawton, those "trifling words" make the long-dead author suddenly very real.

Jane Austen's house is at Chawton, Hants (0420 83262), one mile south of Alton. Open 11am-4.30pm Wed-Sun (Nov, Dec, March), weekends only (Jan, Feb, daily April 1-Oct 31. Admission: adults 75p, children 25p, group rate 60p (from Jan 1986, 85p, 35p, 70p).

CHURCHILLIANA: Two hundred items from the private collection of Ronald Smith, including lobby jugs, postcards, cigarette cards and other small items. The Cabinet War Rooms alone are well worth a visit - 19 rooms exactly as they were when Churchill and his chiefs of staff inhabited them. The map room and the dining room are particularly interesting. Cabinet War Rooms, Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London SW1 (01-930 6881). Until March 23. Tues-Sun 10am-5.15pm. Adult £2, child £1.

Judy Froshaug

BRIDGE

A fairy tale win for the women

British World Championship victories are rare, whatever the sport, so the penny whistle fanfare that our women's team received from the press when they retained the Venice Cup in Sao Paulo was most disappointing.

There was a fairy tale quality about this success, which began at the European Championship in Salzburg. To qualify for the World Championship the team had to finish first or second. A poor start appeared to leave them with too much ground to make up, but with a final spurt worthy of "Pebbles", they snatched second place on the post.

Under the current rules the winners of the North American Championship (USA 1) and the winners of the European Championship (France) were seeded into the semi-finals in Sao Paulo. The remaining eight teams had to play a double round robin to qualify for the other two places. After the first round robin Britain, despite playing reasonably well, were lying sixth.

The British recovered to such good effect in the second round robin that they won the qualifying stage with Taipei edging on the American no 2 team for the other qualifying place.

The rules ordained that in the semi-final Britain should play France, while USA 1 played Taipei. Once again Britain started disastrously, trailing by 71 IMPs after the first 32 boards. Certainly the destiny of the match, and possibly the title, was decided in the next session, when a highly considered young French pair had a series of expensive and confidence sapping accidents. This was one of them.

Great Britain v France. Love all. Dealer North.

In the open room the British pair judged the borderline slam hand well.

White's pressure against the Black pawns on K3 and K4 forces Black to relinquish their cohesion. But Timman has a neat tactical point in mind.

An excellent defensive resource which Kasparov had underestimated. The World Champion had only anticipated... R3 16 NxP NxN 17 BxBP granted White a vehement attack for the sacrificed piece.

Mayhem broke out in the closed room.

Of course three no trumps presented no problem, but six no trumps on a spade lead would be a good defensive test.

to undermine White's Queen's side. Correct would have been 24...QR-K1, rushing his reserves to the centre.

An original switch back. Black still has no choice.

Black resigns. 17 41...QxB 42 R-K8ch or 41...NxB 41 R-KN5ch.

CHESS

Disarming combat of a champion

The recent match between the new World Champion, Gary Kasparov and the best of the West, Jan Timman, was outstanding. Their six games were some of the most combative and exciting ever played at this level.

Hoping to improve on his play from game 4 where 15...N(1)-R3 16 NxP NxN 17 BxBP granted White a vehement attack for the sacrificed piece.

White: Kasparov; Black: Timman. Hilversum, December 22, 1985. Queen's Indian Defence.

Raymond Keene

OUTINGS

HOW THE WAR IS OVER: Exhibition about life in Britain from 1945-1951, including photographs and memorabilia. Films associated with the period include Pathé newsreels of 1945 (Jan 1, 2.30pm), and the classic feature film Passport to Pimlico (today from 3pm). Other documentary films showing next Saturday.

WELSH GOLD: Small temporary exhibition of Cligau ore in which the gold is visible, plus various artefacts, and a geological explanation of the gold deposits found in North Wales of which the Cligau "strike" is the most recent.

ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS' FAIR: Biggest of its kind in London with every conceivable antique and collectable item for sale, including china, glass, toys, clocks, paintings, vintage photographic equipment, wireframes, magazines, postcards and period clothes.

10am-7pm, except Jan 9 10am-9pm. Adult £3.25, child £2.

TALES FROM A LONG ROOM: Robin Bailey assumes the character of the "Brigadier" created by Peter Tinniswood, and tells tales of great cricketers.

THEATRE QUIZ: Competition between teams from the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company to win Sir Ralph Richardson's walking stick.

55TH MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION: All aspects of engineering in the model field from steam and traction engines to model cars, vintage and modern.

CHURCHILLIANA: Two hundred items from the private collection of Ronald Smith, including lobby jugs, postcards, cigarette cards and other small items.

Judy Froshaug

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SHOPPING

Pack to the future

The art of packaging has become almost as important as the contents to boost sales. But Beryl Downing discovers the modern image promoted by designers owes much of its style to ideas from days long past

Will this year be the year of the superpack? High street shops throughout the country are being revamped with mirrored pillars and floor-to-ceiling plate glass. The products they offer are aimed at a young, design-led generation. So why does the motto of the packaging designers still seem to be Per nostalgia ad nauseam?

It is because that is how the rest of the world sees Britain and British goods, then perhaps it is time we disabused them. At the turn of the century, as now, we had to do a good deal of flag waving to combat imports and every product had a picture of John Bull or Britannia rubbing Union Jacks with an occasional lion. Even in those days, they were not modern images, but using them in advertisements and wrappers was a new idea. Even Royalty was not immune. It would be unthinkable today for the Queen to allow her photograph to appear on a packet of porridge oats. But in 1897 the buyers of Goller Oats

must have been reassured by the picture of Queen Victoria above the caption "Two Safeguards of the Constitution".

The Princess of Wales endorsed The Alexandra Dentifrice, oil, starch and chocolates and Edward VII apparently enjoyed Horniman's Pure Tea and Spratts Patent Dog Cakes. All these examples are from Robert Opie's collection of packaging in his book Rule Britannia (Viking, £12.95).

Commercial endorsement by the Royal Family stopped in the early 1920s, although it is still allowed for jubilees, weddings and other special occasions. But the feeling for tradition and the security it implies continues in other forms.

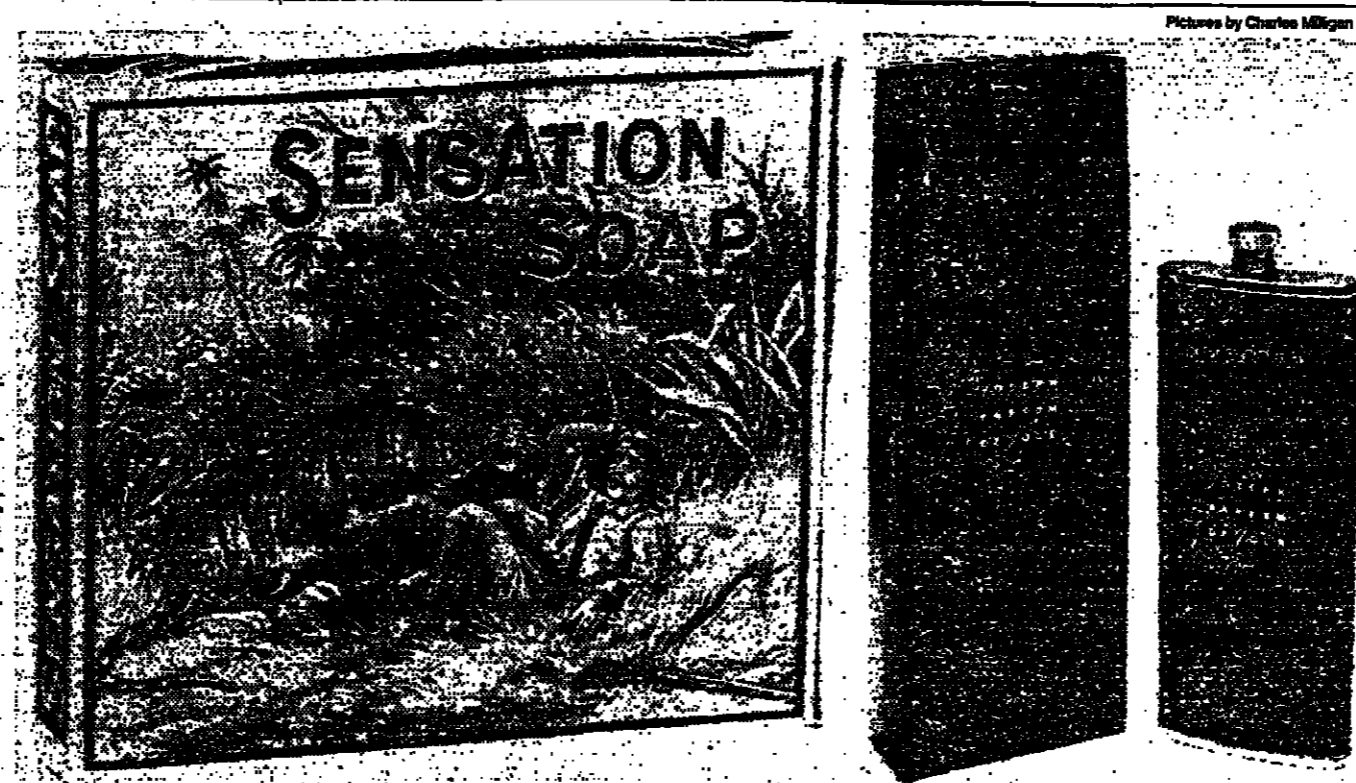
Packaging designers strongly defend the validity of nostalgic packaging. Trickett & Webb is a consultancy which has become known for retrospective designs commissioned for centenaries and celebrations, including a book for Unilever's Sunlight soap centenary, a Colman's mustard tin for the Queen's jubilee and several products for Marks & Spencer.

"Some people think of us whenever they want something that looks old and comes in a tin, but we don't do nostalgia purely for the sake of it," says Brian Webb. "Modern high-tech design is good for certain efficient, streamlined things, but you can't put delicate items into that sort of packaging. Even the most sophisticated people have a fear of the unknown. If you can approach them with something familiar you are half way there, as long as it is accompanied by a good idea."

One of his recent successful ideas was to package a range of men's gifts like a series of books. "The problem was to find something that would apply to a whole range of unrelated products. I had our book series, the basic idea seemed to have been, 'just anything in a pack as long as it has a handkerchief with it'. It was nice to be able to add a bit of fun."

"When I was at college in the 1960s there was only one way of looking at design - clean, hard-edged, hygienic. Today we assess products in their own right and package for the people and the market they are aimed at."

Whether we, the public, appreciate the efforts made on our behalf is another matter. We spend nearly £3,000 million a year wrapping things up in decorative boxes that are thrown away. Yet packaging is not there only to say: "Pick me up - I'm the best", but also to give protection to the contents



Ancient and modern: a soap packet (c.1900) from Robert Opie's collection and the 1985 image for scent - no longer pretty and delicate but strong and chic in a black and stainless steel flask with matching black and silver packaging to echo Joseph's fashion image. It exemplifies Michael Peter's belief that the product's styling will influence the packet's design.



Novel nostalgia: creating a series of mock books with witty titles was Trickett & Webb's way of finding a common denominator for a group of otherwise unrelated men's gifts by Boots. They chose the 1930s as a suitable style for the 1985 Christmas market as this is one of the currently fashionable retrospective periods. The "dust cover" is not only a practical and original lid but also carries the essential information about the product on the "fly leaf".



Two for tea: the Twinings tin (right), designed in 1935, is still used for specialist food halls and exports. The black pack with a different design for each blend was introduced in 1982. Sales have tripled.

and information about the product. It should also be safe to handle and easy even for disabled fingers to open. A Design Council exhibition on packaging last year showed that although 50 children suffocate each year by putting plastic bags

over their heads, some manufacturers still fail to put ventilation holes in their bags. Many reusable food containers have become as important as their contents. The concept of the object itself being the package is subscribed to by Michael Peters, whose design consultancy is an international leader in packaging. "Traditional packaging is the cardboard box you put round the object, but the future of packaging is in the styling of the object itself," he says. "The public doesn't yet understand about graphics - people haven't learned the language as they have in the style of their clothes. But the new generation of youngsters is the first that readily understands design and they are demanding good looking products."

"I have to try to be a visual clairvoyant and I can see tremendous changes coming." The effect of wider markets and international trade has meant that there is less national identity about packaging from other countries.

"The British were leaders in packaging until about 1920 and the Americans took over in the 1950s, but now they are losing their way," says Peters. "Even the Japanese, who traditionally have had caring as part of their culture and show it in the way they present things, are now adopting the worst of the West's vulgar packaging."

John Blackburn, whose design partnership won the 1985 Design & Art Directors' packaging award for its presentation of

Cockburn's Tawny Port, points out that even the Italians, admired so much for their sense of style, are not particularly inspirational about packaging. "If you over-package something it will make people suspicious. You have to inspire confidence."

Sales graphs show how the right packaging sells the product, whether we like to believe it or not. Some of us resent paying extra for presentation and go to the nearest bulk-buy shop for goods in plain sacks and paper bags, but we are a minority. Certainly there are good cosmetics in plain jars and others in fancy packs that are no better and sometimes worse but if the fancy one makes us feel more glamorous, who can argue that it is not worth the price?

Perhaps designers' names should appear on packaging as they used to be on ceramics. That may encourage more innovation and higher standards, for designing the bits that are thrown away must be a frustrating business. Who at cocktail hour raises a glass to John Blackburn for updating the Harvey's Bristol Cream label? Who asks if there is Peters still for tea as the Elsenham is spread on the crumpets? Only another designer.

DRINK

Buy now and beat the Bordelais

JANUARY WINES

January is usually the quietest month in the wine calendar. The vines are dormant, very little work is done in the cellar and most wine merchants, after the festive rush, have nothing more pressing to do than sort out a few bin-end bottles for their new year sales. But this year, for UK wine merchants in the claret trade, January could turn out to be a very busy month indeed.

As early as last August and September, several wine merchants were already expressing concern over what they thought was a "conspiracy of silence" from Bordeaux. For instead of the usual long, detailed letters and telexes from Bordeaux negociants and proprietors describing the likely quality and quantity of the 1985 claret harvest, very little information was received.

Although it was clear then that the Bordeaux 1985 harvest was likely to be excellent due to the extraordinarily hot Indian summer, most British merchants had to unearth this important information for themselves. Many believed that this curious lack of first-hand news was due entirely to the Bordeaux wine trade trying to get rid of its mostly indifferent 1984 vintage before the word got out about the '85.

Three months later the English wine trade is worried about the opening prices that the Bordelais are likely to demand for their 1985 wine. Several Bordeaux proprietors, most notably Madame de Lencquesaing from Chateau Pichon-Lalande, and Comtesse de Longueval, have already stated that their '85 will be considerably more expensive than last year's vintage.

The French risk losing the British market

This may sound fair because the '85 will certainly be better than the '84. But the opening prices charged for the disappointing '84 were, somewhat surprisingly, around 20 per cent higher than those of the splendid '83 vintage. If the '85 vintage is priced at a similar increase above the '84, the eventual price to claret drinkers in the UK of the prestigious second growth is likely to be more than £25 per bottle.

In an attempt to avoid such stratospheric prices, UK wine merchants, led by Robin Kerrinck, Clerk of the Royal Cellars and chairman of Corney and Barrow, have written stiff letters to the Bordeaux authorities and proprietors.

Simon Loftus from Adnams thinks the situation is "absolutely crazy" and urges UK wine merchants not to buy any wine at all if prices are so steep. Graham Chidgey from Laytons, another important Bordeaux buyer, takes an equally grim view: "The French believe they can ignore the poorer nations of Europe but they could risk losing the stable traditional British market."

Claret lovers on this side of the Channel should buy stocks of good yet still inexpensive claret now, if possible from the splendid '82 and '83 vintages before they leap up in price.

The magnificent 1982 vintage is the year to go for and although most of the finest cru classe wines are now priced on most merchants' lists for around £20, their second wines are still available for under half that price and given the uncertainty over the '85 prices, they now look remarkably good value for money. Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex) still list three fine examples.



My favourite is the second wine of Leoville-Las Cases - the Clos du Marquis with its deep purple colour and intensely rich cassis taste and cedary finish: definitely a January bargain at £8.28.

Pichon Lalande fans will be glad to know that they can still buy a reasonably priced wine from this property - none other than their '84 second wine, Réserve de la Comtesse. With its dark colour turning garnet at the edges and rich, beefy taste, it is not as good as the Clos du Marquis but will mature earlier, and is again good value at £8.86.

A shade cheaper at £7.99 and worth every penny is the second wine of Gruaud Larose-Sarget de Gruaud Larose from the St Julienne Commune, like Clos du Marquis and blessed with a similar cedary richness.

Apart from buying second wine from a great year such as 1982, try the second wines from unfashionable, quick-maturing vintages such as 1980. Pavillon Rouge 1980, the second wine from the back-on-top-form premier grand cru classe Chateau Margaux is superb with its wonderful full flowery bouquet and rich, soft, fruity taste (Lay and Wheeler, £7.99).

Jane MacQuitty

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IN THE GARDEN

Branch out into transplant operations

The best time to plant or transplant trees or shrubs is during their dormant period - the time between November and March when growth in deciduous plants stops so that damage from our cold winters is kept to a minimum. Evergreens go into a semi-dormant state but never stop showing signs of growth completely.

The ground and the weather conditions must be right. Do not try to plant into ground which is frozen, has more than a thin layer of frost, or is snow covered. Do not plant when the soil is so wet that it lifts in great lumps on the boots. It destroys the texture and it may take years to get it back into reasonable condition.

There are a number of other principles to bear in mind. Lift trees or shrubs carefully and make sure the roots are not broken any more than is necessary. Nurseries are usually very careful when lifting trees and shrubs, and only do so when they are in the right



Digging in: a scene from William Lawson's A New Orchard and Garden, published in 1676

condition for planting. It is easier to see how well a plant has been lifted if you are buying bare-rooted plants rather than container grown plants.

The time between lifting and replanting should be as short as possible. Never leave roots

exposed to the air. If you are not able to plant immediately the plants should be heeled in or they should be stored under shelter and covered with a wet sack. Plants delivered from a nursery should be opened up as soon as they have been received

and checked to see how well they have travelled. If they are dehydrated in any way they should be soaked in a bucket of water to restore plumpness. Prepare the planting site well. The ideal for a normal nursery shrub is to dig a hole 2x2ft and to 2ft deep. The bottom spit should have well-rotted farm yard manure or well-rotted compost mixed with the soil. This is best done well in advance of the planting and if necessary the hole can be filled in to be dug out again later. Bonemeal can be added to the top spit and mixed into the area into which the roots will go when planted. Never handle bonemeal with your bare hands unless you are sure it has been treated.

Plants can be a little deeper than they were in the nursery but it is unwise to plant them above the nursery mark. Should a plant require staking always put the stake in the hole first.

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTION TIME

There is Honey Fungus in a bank I am developing, which has infected a privet hedge and an old beech. Can I treat the land and what plants can resist the disease?

You must ensure that all the root is dug from the soil and remove the two good plants at either end of the diseased area. Avoid replanting with woody plants for one year, longer if possible, and put in herbaceous plants instead.

I know of no effective chemical to control the disease, but Bray's Emulsion may help. Trees and shrubs which can survive the disease include: Acer negundo, Liquidambar styracif-

lra, Prunus spinosa, Ailanthus altissima, species of Crataegus and many of the Tiliacae. Shrubs to consider include Cistus species, Cotinus coggygria, Rhus typhina, Lonicera nitida, forms of the common ivy, Hedera helix, Taxus baccata the yew tree, Tamarix in its forms, Clematis and elaeagnus.

I have a number of gravelled paths and a large courtyard which needs regular attention to kill weeds and moss. What can I do to keep them clean? Residual weedkillers are ideal on areas where you do not wish to grow other plants and as a rule a single application is enough to keep weeds away for at least a year. Use one of the non-creeping weedkillers like Simazine or Casoron G. Moss

requires different treatment but a good moss killer will clean up the area with regular applications.

I have a tiny garden, no greenhouse or shed and want to store my dahlias and begonia tubers. What is the best place? Neither plant likes to be stored in the warm when dormant. They do not need light but must have air movement, so the storage site cannot be too enclosed. As you do not have ideal conditions the tubers should be placed in the dark in the coldest room in your house and wrapped in newspaper.

Readers with queries about gardening should write to Ashley Stephenson, The Times, 20 City Street, London WC1.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY

<p>BARBICAN HALL</p> <p>LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Saturday 1 February at 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 7.30pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p>	<p>LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Tuesday 5 February at 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p>	<p>LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Thursday 14 February at 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p>	<p>LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Tuesday 19 February at 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p>	<p>LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Thursday 28 February at 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>FRIDAY 29 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p> <p>SATURDAY 30 FEBRUARY 7.45pm Linda Newson conductor Richard Hickox conductor Felicity Palmer mezzo-soprano Arthur Davies tenor John Shirley Oates bass-baritone Eggar The Dream of Gerontius £3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50</p>
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£3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
at the BARBICAN
TOMORROW at 7.30pm

ROSSINI-HANDEL-GRIEG-BEETHOVEN

Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
SUNDAY 24 JANUARY at 7.30pm
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FRIDAY NEXT 10 JANUARY at 7.45pm

MENDELSSOHN-BEETHOVEN-TCHAIKOVSKY

Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
SATURDAY 11 JANUARY at 7.45pm
£3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50

SUNDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.30pm

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
SUNDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.30pm
£3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY at 7.45pm

BIZET-TCHAIKOVSKY-ELGAR

Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
SATURDAY 22 JANUARY at 7.45pm
£3.50 £4.50 £5.50 £6.50 £7.50

MONDAY 22 JANUARY at 7.45pm

SIBELIUS-RACHMANINOV-DVORAK

Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
TUESDAY 23 JANUARY at 7.45pm
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MOZART - HANDEL RODRIGO - DVORAK
Conductor: ANTHONY HOPKINS
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY 17th JANUARY at 7.30
MENDELSSOHN - HANDEL BRUCH - BEETHOVEN
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: CLIVE FAIRBairn

WEDNESDAY NEXT 8th JANUARY at 7.45
HANDEL - MOZART
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: HOWARD SHELLEY

SUNDAY 12th JANUARY at 7.30
ELGAR - BEETHOVEN
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: BRIAN WRIGHT

WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY at 7.45
BRAHMS - MAHLER
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JOHN CARWE

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Principal Conductor: Giuseppe Sinopoli

BRITTEN/ELGAR SERIES

Conducted by ANDREW DAVIS

BOOKING OPENS THIS WEEK

BRITTEN
WAR REQUIEM
THE YOUNG PERSONS
GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA
LES ILLUMINATIONS
NOCTURNE

ELGAR
THE APOSTLES
WAND OF YOUTH - SUITE
VIOLIN CONCERTO
SYMPHONIES NO.1 & 2

DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU
FELICITY LOTT
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Sunday 2nd February 1986 at 7.30pm

LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Capital Radio

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YOUNG ARLO: ST. NICOLAS
Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor) Michael Thompson (horn)
Julian Jacobson (piano) Christopher Willis (piano)
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Conductor: RICHARD ARMSTRONG

APOLLO THEATRE on 457, March 4, 1986
PENLOPE KEITH MARK DRAGON'S TAIL
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
RICHARD LLOYD PUGH
THEATRICAL COMPANY
THEATRICAL COMPANY
THEATRICAL COMPANY

CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
MILNER TSCHECHNAY
WING COMMANDER ERIC KNIGHT conductor
DAVID JACOBS comp.

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 7.15pm Barbican Hall

SIMON RATTLE

TURANGALILA SYMPHONY
MURAIL Time and Again
(Feeney Trust Commission; First London performance)
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PETER DONOHUE piano
RICKY MURPHY conductor
Sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland

St John's Smith Square

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Covent Garden
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THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 7.15pm Barbican Hall

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PETER DONOHUE piano
RICKY MURPHY conductor
Sponsored by The Royal Bank of Scotland

16 January at 7.30pm Royal Albert Hall

in the presence of
T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales

Charity Gala for Mexican Earthquake Fund

VERDI REQUIEM

Artists taking part include
Ghena Dimitrova
Dame Janet Baker
Robert Lloyd

Tenor to be announced
Philharmonia Orchestra, Bach Choir
London Philharmonic Choir, Philharmonia Chorus
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Placido Domingo

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APOLLO THEATRE on 457, March 4, 1986
PENLOPE KEITH MARK DRAGON'S TAIL
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
RICHARD LLOYD PUGH
THEATRICAL COMPANY
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY at 7.45pm
In the presence of T.R.H. Princess Alexandra

BEETHOVEN MISSA SOLEMNIS

Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra
Conducted by JOHN ELIOT GARDINER

Sponsored by British Post
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CONCERTS

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LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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Paperbacks

REVIEW

On the road with the lost tribes of rock

They wander, usually in summer, down Wardour Street and the King's Road, German backpackers with their Megastore bags, Dutch bikers with their denim jackets...

London's Rock Routes by John Platt (Fourth Estate, £3.95). London's Rock Landmarks by Marcus Gray (Orion Press, £4.95).

Mr Platt takes in the psychedelic years - Granny Takes A Trip, UFO, the 14-Hour Technicolor Dream - and stops just as things are getting out of hand...



Splitting image: Zoot Money's Big Roll Band outside the Flamingo, Soho, in 1964

A willing slave who waited in the wings

Katherine Mansfield: The Memories of LM by Ida Constance Baker (Virago, £4.50)

"But you do see that our relationship was absolutely wrong now? You were identified with me. I prevented you from living at all. Now you have to learn and it's terribly hard."

into Katherine's life each time Katherine was sick and lonely. But any resentment on LM's part is conspicuously absent.



Difficult: Katherine Mansfield

The book begins at Queens where the two girls met. Katherine was dreamy, gifted, egotistical. LM was dowdy and infinitely admiring. They became great friends. Later Katherine made an impact on the London literary scene, and LM did not fit in easily with friends such as the Lawrences.

rather than living", wrote LM. Although to the outside eye she was exploited, on one level Katherine found her terrifying. She writes again to Murry, that a tubercular haemorrhage: "It's a good thing LM has come (even though I feel in some mysterious way she has done it. I do.) Still, I'll use her as a slave."

Hooked on hardship

The Day of the Fox by Norman Lewis (Robinson Publishing, £2.95)

This story of a small Spanish fishing village caught at a moment of change is a vehicle for Norman Lewis's extraordinary powers of description.



Mediculous: Norman Lewis

Costa is a simple fisherman who fought unenthusiastically in the Civil War on the side of the Nationalists. When he returns to his village, he finds that everyone else fought on the other side.

Lewis provides a meticulous account of the social dynamics of a Mediterranean village. More remarkably, he explains with absolute precision what it is like to be a lonely man in a small boat who must, for his livelihood, outwit both the fish and the sea.

Rambunctious rambles through the past

Falstaff by Robert Nye (Penguin, £3.95)

The effect is of a rather engaging drunk, railing and roaring in the presence of a stenographer for the sake of an enabled posterity.

Here are 100 chapters, rambunctious rambles through the past, and supposedly sage asides: "About Great Events in the Wide World"; "The Art of Farting"; "About Doll Tear-sheet and 'A Night at the Bear's Head'."

Once again Nye immerses himself in his period sufficiently to conjure a world which is half in the domain of 16th-century Germany and half in 20th-century England. It is a rich, rude, teasing evocation, full of low heavy and high blasphemy.

These most ambitious novels could so easily have become inchoate (indeed they threaten to do so on many occasions), but it is always the sheer vigour of Nye's language which pulls them back from the brink.

Anne Barnes

Richard Williams

Alan Franks

Katherine

Kathy O'Shaughnessy

THE WEEK AHEAD

By Peter Waymark

Showman who created Hollywood in England

FILMS ON TV

A curiosity of the British cinema is that, while so much home-grown talent, from Chaplin to Stan Laurel, Hitchcock and Cary Grant, abandoned it for Hollywood, some of its most successful films have been made by foreigners.



Charmer: Korda

He arrived in Britain in 1930 after a varied career that had taken him from Budapest to Paris, Berlin and Hollywood. Finding an industry that was insular and unsure of itself, he shook it into life and gave it hope.

He died 30 years ago this month and BBC2 is marking the anniversary with a season of "Korda Classics". It starts tomorrow (3.25-5.25pm) with The Four Feathers (1939), a rousing adventure story set in Victorian Africa and directed by Korda's brother, Zoltan.

costume spectaculars, often drawing on episodes from British history but intended to have a universal appeal. Korda's base was not, in fact, Pinewood but Denham, a studio he built himself with money charmed out of the Prudential. It was another attempt to ape Hollywood, with facilities more lavish than had been seen in Britain before.



Courting couple: Charles Laughton and Binnie Barnes in The Private Life of Henry VIII

Baghdad (Thurs, 7.15-9.00). Here is cinema artifice at its most potent, a dazzlingly inventive kaleidoscope of celluloid magic.

Laughton stars again as Rembrandt (Fri, 6-7.20pm), a moving portrait of the painter made in 1937. Completing the week is the 1941 Lady Hamilton (Wed, 6-8pm), with Vivien Leigh in the name part and Laurence Olivier as Nelson.

missed repeat of a television classic from 1965, The Epic That Never Was. Bill Duncali's documentary is the story of one of the most ambitious Korda projects, I, Claudius, with Charles Laughton as the eccentric Roman emperor, bedeviled by clashes of temperament and Laughton's agonizing over how the role should be played, the film was finally abandoned after the leading actress, Merle Oberon, was injured in a car crash.

Rich pickings and a bundle of laughs

TELEVISION

The turn of the year means a fresh start for television as the companies take stock of the Christmas ratings battle and unveil their new offerings. In some cases there are formidable gaps to fill.

Shoestring and the disappointingly tepid Bergerac, follows the Jersey detective with Lovejoy (BBC1, Fri, 9.30-10.25pm), a comedy-drama about the antique business written by Ian La Frenais. Ian McShane plays the burly hero, an East Anglian hustler on the lookout for a quick buck who stumbles on a gang of robbers.

Minister (BBC2, Thurs, 9-9.30pm) in which Paul Edington's dithering Jim Hacker finally makes it to Number 10. The first episode, at least, finds writers Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn in cracking form. Meanwhile, the scurrilous puppet show, Spitting Image, is back on ITV tomorrow (9.45-10.45pm).

Saturday nights on BBC1, for instance, are now bereft of Juliet Bravo and Friday nights no longer have Bergerac. Replacing the popular lady cop is Strike It Rich! (BBC1, today, 7.20-8.10pm), an eight-part serial about an assortment of people all apparently unconnected but linked by a common search for lost shares.

Among the comedy offerings are two new series, All in Good Faith (ITV, Mon, 8-8.30pm) with Richard Briers as a naive country vicar taking on a tough city parish in the Midlands, and Constant Hot Water (ITV, Fri, 8.30pm), in which Patricia Phoenix, late of Coronation Street, plays a seaside landlady.

"A South Wales saga to rival any episode of Dallas or Dynasty", burles the BBC publicity for The Marriage Publicity (BBC1, Wed, 9.30-10.15pm). Little of this emerges from the first episode, in which a rugged playing womaniser from the Rhondda Valley and his fiancée prepare for their wedding; but there are five more programmes to come. Desmond Wilcox is the interviewer/narrator.

New year revolutions for all that jazz

RADIO

Historic jazz recordings as most of us will not have heard them before are the staff of Robert Parker's Jazz Classics in Stereo, a 26-part series which starts on Radio 2 tomorrow (4-4.30pm).

As the programme reveals through interviews with friends and colleagues, he was an odd character to say the least. He lived almost as a hermit, wore an overcoat and muffler on the hottest New York day and talked for hours on the telephone with people whom he never met.

The Afternoon Play on Thursday (Radio 4, 3-4pm) is the first of a trilogy by Andrew Rissak, A Man Alone. Ronald Pickup, making a rare appearance on radio, plays a successful novelist and television producer who is tormented by a schoolboy friendship that went tragically wrong.

Radio 4 gives a new look to Saturday mornings with Loose Ends (10.30-11.30am) a chat show-cum-magazine programme hosted by Ned Sherrin. Regular contributors include Angela Gordon, editor of The Times Diary. Smatzy morning has a new look, too, with the return of Desert Island Discs (see page 25).

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Wednesday also sees the return of Influences (Radio 4, 7.20-7.45pm) in which Labour's Roy Hattersley and Tory Jeffrey Archer talk not of politics but of how their lives were shaped by remarkable mothers.

RECOMMENDED

That's Entertainment - Part II (1976): Clips from MGM films made between 1929 and 1958, introduced by Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. Musicals predominate but there are also samples of Laurel and Hardy and the Marx Brothers (Channel 4, today, 6.30-8.50pm).

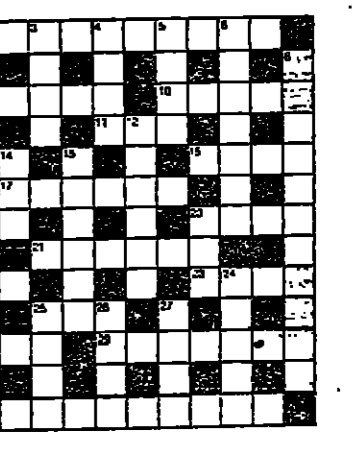


Swanning about: Jeremy Irons in Swann in Love

dusting sequence and climatic shoot-out on Mount Rushmore (BBC1, tomorrow, 7.45-9.55pm). * Swann in Love (1983): Jeremy Irons, Ornella Muti and Alain Delon in a tale of love and jealousy in 19th century Paris, adapted from Proust's Remembrance of Things Past and directed by Volker Schlöndorff (Channel 4, Wed, 10pm-12.05am). * First British television showing

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 840)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 9, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 11, 1986.



ACROSS 1 Irrelevant musician (3,8) 9 Great musicians (7) 10 Spurious (7) 11 Bond (3) 12 Layer (4) 16 Soft French cheese (6) 17 To each (6) 18 Covetousness (4) 20 Cried (4) 21 Trouble (6) 22 Provision (4) 23 Information (4) 25 Soak (3) 28 180 deg from south (5) 29 Heavily (7) 30 Translator (11)

DOWN 2 Daisy-like flower (5) 3 Local (4) 4 Leave (4) 5 Small island (4) 6 Intimidate (7) 7 Shattered (11) 10 Delude 11 Idea 12 One by one 14 Aspect 8 Having windows (11) 17 Stream 19 Per annum 22 Cash 24 Wanton 12 In event (2,4) 15 Glean (3) 19 Japanese emperor (6) 19 Old hand (7) 20 Married (5) 24 Maltrat (5) 25 Foot covering (4) 26 Support (4) 27 4840 sq yards (4)

SOLUTION TO No 839 ACROSS: 1 Phobic 5 Bireme 8 ONO 9 Margin 10 Delude 11 Idea 12 One by one 14 Aspect 8 Having windows (11) 17 Stream 19 Per annum 22 Cash 24 Wanton 12 In event (2,4) 15 Glean (3) 19 Japanese emperor (6) 19 Old hand (7) 20 Married (5) 24 Maltrat (5) 25 Foot covering (4) 26 Support (4) 27 4840 sq yards (4)

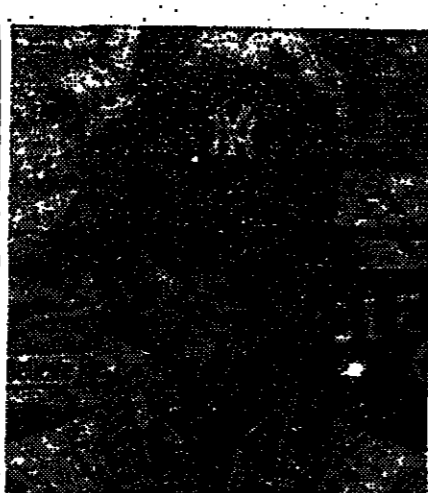
The winners of prize concise No 835 are: W. A. Downward, Kenmore Road, Northender, Manchester; and Mrs M. Nathan, Riverdale Close, Seaton, Devon. SOLUTION TO No 835 (last Saturday's prize concise) ACROSS: 1 Good natured 9 Affront 10 Naive 11 Spa 13 Kall 16 Tuna 17 Latent 18 Task 20 Korb 21 Cobweb 22 Lear 23 Gall 25 Gem 28 Tobby 29 Espanol 30 Remissive DOWN: 2 Offit 3 Dhow 4 Aisle 5 Ulua 6 Epicure 7 Market place 8 Perambulate 12 Pander 14 Ilk 15 Stroke 19 Shamble 20 Keg 24 Aulds 25 Gyro 26 Mess 27 Haul

THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

SACHS ROAMER: Norman Bailey is back as Hans Sachs, his most famous role, in the English National Opera revival of The Mastersingers of Nuremberg.



FILMS

DRAGON SLAYER: Michael Cimino returns to the screen five years after his hit thriller, Year of the Dragon (18).



CONCERTS

KEY NOTES: José Feghali, the 24-year-old Brazilian pianist who won the 1985 Van Cliburn Piano Competition in Texas,



TELEVISION

TALL STORY: Rik Mayall, star of alternative comedy, takes a new role reading George's Marvellous Medicine.



JAZZ

TOUGH TENOR: George Coleman missed the glory generally reflected on Miles Davis's saxophonists in the 1960s.



DANCE

STYLE POINTS: Elaine McDonald, Scottish Ballet's gentle, stylish ballerina, is seen too rarely in London but this week,

ARTS DIARY

Running in to trouble

The Car Wars battle between biographer Robert Lacey and his American opposite numbers over who will be first into the bookshops with their biographies of Henry Ford II, is revving up nicely.

Is it a write off?

Tom Stoppard has just returned from Hollywood where he has delivered his screenplay of J. G. Ballard's novel The Empire of the Sun, not knowing whether the film will ever be made.

The remarkable, if daunting, prospect of Lord Olivier and Cliff Richard in the same West End musical appears to have intrigued those who like to book their entertainment well in advance.

Two to be Prue

Two actresses will simultaneously be playing the buxom Miss Prue in Congreve's Love For Love in London from January 16.



Mrs Abington and Sally Dexter by Reynolds, soon to be seen in his major exhibition at the Royal Academy, I am told by Stephen Wood at the National that the girls have similar physiques, but he wouldn't like to swear that the 20th-century version is in the habit of sticking her thumb in quite the provocative manner of Reynolds's Miss Prue.

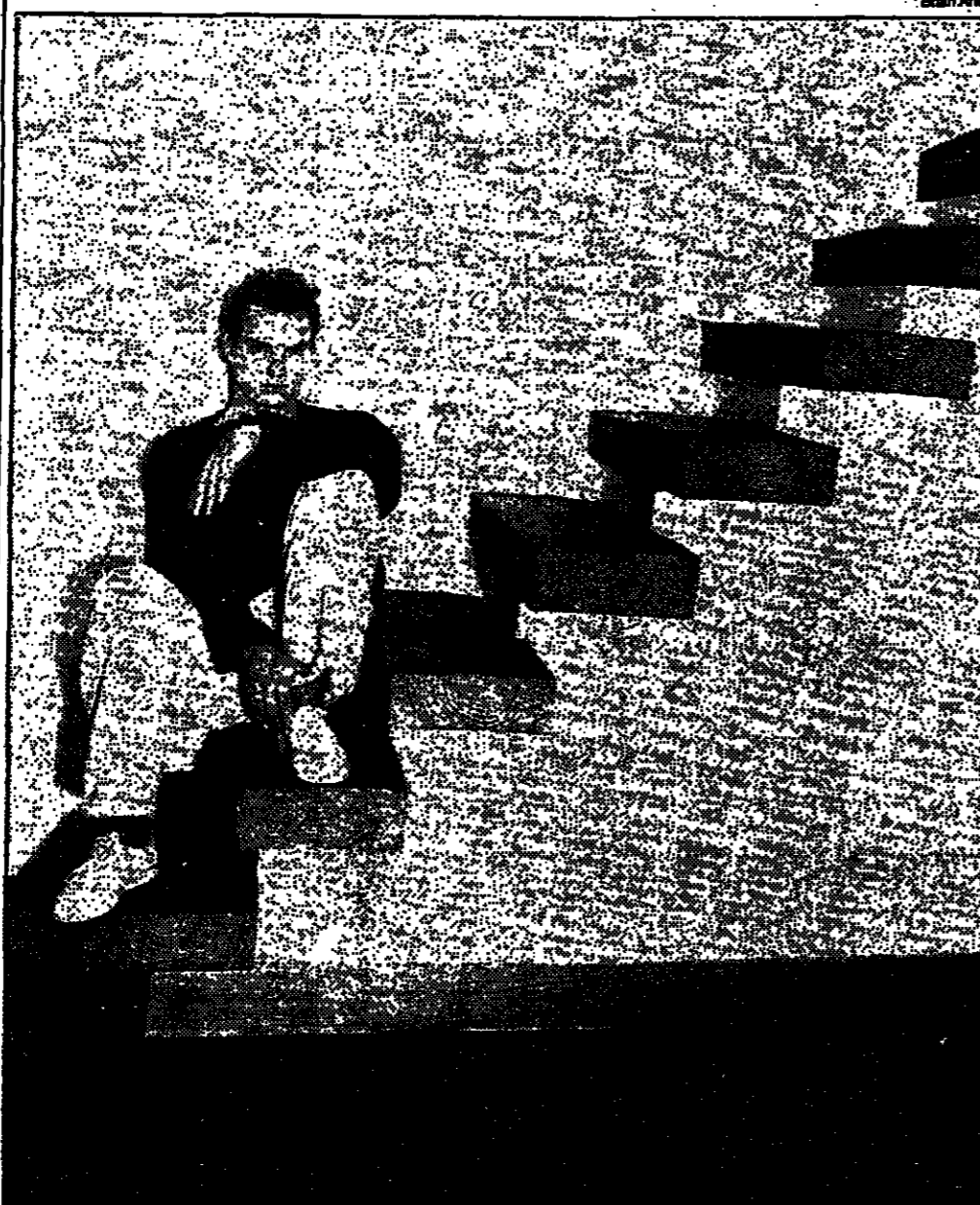
Sunrise set

Speculation over the appointment of the head of the BBC's new Daytime Television programmes may be out of place as he content has yet to be decided.

Christopher Wilson

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Released from the Police



It happens to all bands, not just the Police. You start off as a democracy and then someone emerges as the leader. It usually ends in trouble.

The speaker is Sting, singer, bass-player and song-writer of the Police, and as such, the leader of the most successful rock group since the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

During the past year, he has not only consolidated his solo career with serious acting parts in the films The Bride and Prejudice, which starred Meryl Streep, but also established himself as a solo performer and recording artist.

But despite this success, including two Top Five singles in America, he has yet to achieve a genuine Top Twenty hit in Britain (although he had a novelty success in 1982 with "Spread a Little Happiness" from the film Brimstone and Treacle).

With his intelligence, athletic build and photogenic good looks, Sting finds and retains international acclaim with little difficulty. "I see my picture everywhere and my name in lights and I keep thinking 'How on earth did I pull this off?'" he says, nonchalantly.

Leaving his job and taking his wife and baby to London in January, 1977, with only the

Sting embarks on a new phase of his solo career when he starts a major tour of the UK tonight, writes Michael Cable

slenderest of prospects - including an invitation from the drummer Stewart Copeland to form a band to be called the Police - may have seemed little short of folly.

Just over two years later, the Police's first hit single "Roxanne" began climbing the British and American charts and their album Outlandos D'Amour entered the British charts, where it was to remain for the next 96 weeks.

Since then, the Police have sold more than 40 million records, almost all written by Sting: "I don't always find it easy, but I know as soon as I put my pen down when I've written a hit I often say to people, 'Hey, I've just written a hit'".

He recently received a special award to mark the one million plays of one of his songs on American radio. "If you work it out that's the equivalent of playing it non-stop for more than five years on end", he says, shaking his head. "It's staggering when you think about it like that."

His music has made him a multi-millionaire. He recently paid over £500,000 for Yehudi Menuhin's Highgate home, owns a loft apartment in New York's fashionable Soho district and runs three race horses, although he still drives a Volkswagen. He has a new girlfriend, the actress Trudie Styler, who gave birth to his fourth child last May.

"apprentice" actor. "My career has been patchy but I'm growing as an actor all the time. I don't expect to be Dustin Hoffman or Laurence Olivier overnight, but every film I've done has been successful. None of them was Star Wars but none of them was intended to be. I'm not at all disappointed."

A studious and serious man, Sting has sought inspiration for his songs in Jung, Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht. Given half a chance he will talk at length about the pseudo-psychanalytical origins of his album title. It is sometimes suggested that he takes himself a little too seriously but his soft-spoken charm defuses the charge.

Sting's domination of the Police led to friction and for the last year they have been taking a break from each other. "We got a good result with the Police, but we were basically at war with each other for eight years. I still have a good relationship with Andy (Summers) and Stewart; I still love those guys. Whether we play together again is in the air, but it would be nice."

The solo project he has undertaken in the meantime was a typically audacious move which once again paid dividends. He recruited four heavyweight American jazz musicians and set out to create a music unlike that of the Police, but commercial nevertheless.

Michael Apted, director of Costantino's Daughter, was engaged to make a big-budget documentary film, Bring On The Night (premiered at the Cork Film Festival in October) detailing the behind-the-scenes preparations for the first solo concert in Paris last May and the world's press was flown in to witness the launching of the band.

Sting's tour begins tonight at Bournemouth International Centre (0202 227257), then Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775), then Newcastle City Hall (0832 320007).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

ELMER GANTY: Steve Brown's musical, from the Sinclair Lewis novel about the unbelievably hell-fire preacher, directed by Giles Croucher, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London W1 (01-229 0705). Previews Thurs, Fri, Jan 11. Opens Jan 13.

OPENINGS

FATHER'S LYING DEAD ON THE IRONING BOARD: Agnes Bernette presents a collection of songs which she has translated and adapted from the political and satirical cabarets of Germany between 1918-1933.

HAMLET: Cicely Berry directs a workshop production by the NT, currently touring schools and art centres. Tim McMenemy with Kate Butler, Deborah Poplett, Christopher Baines, Simon Soot, Norman Warwick, Bill Moody, Cottisloe (01-928 2252). Opens Thurs, Fri, Jan 11 (matinee and evening). In repertory.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES: Christopher Hampton's adaptation from the late 18th-century novel by Laclos about a conspiracy to corrupt an innocent girl.

OTHELLO: Terry Hands directs Ben Kingsley, David Suchet, Niamh Cusack, Janet Dale, Gerard Logan, Tom Mannion, Joseph O'Connor, in the RSC production first seen at Stratford.

PULP: The all-women theatre company Shen return with a "seabian thriller" which sold out its previous run at this theatre in London.

SELECTED

HARRY'S CHRISTMAS/THE TELL-TALE HEART: Forget the first half of Steven Berkoff's one-man double bill, but go for his mesmerizing, with a touch of the Poe masterpiece, Donner Warehouse (01-379 8665). Until Jan 18.

INTERPRETERS: Edward Fox and Maggie Smith lead in Ronald Harwood's tricky confrontation at the edges of the cold war.

BLACK HARCROSS (18): Powell and Pressburger's exotic and breathtaking drama of 1947 set in a Himalayan convent with Deborah Kerr. A dazzling British achievement.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET at Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) dances Coppélia today (matinee and evening) and Mon. Then a programme (Tues, Wed) of the four most recent seasons for the company: Darius Milhaud's Flowers of the Forest, Michael Corder's Wand of Youth, and the London premieres of Graham Lustig's Caught in Time and Susan Crow's Trust and Fidelity.

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Joan Plowright (above) as the warm-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter in Anthony Page's production, Lyttelton (01-928 2252), in repertory.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A traditional pantomime vividly achieved, with Vicky Likorish as Jack, Matthew Kelly as Mrs Robinson and some robust audience participation. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 7727). Final performance today.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the English nobleman Borgia in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. With Edward Petherbridge, Jonathan Hyde, Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Lyttelton (01-928 2252), in repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

LIVERPOOL: The Divines Are Coming: Morecombe and Wise scriptwriter Eddie Braben's first stage comedy features Alison Steadman, Nick Stringer, El Woods and Jim Casey. Playhouse (051 709 8363), until Jan 25.

OXFORD: The Importance of Being Earnest: Oxford Playhouse Company, directed by Richard Williams, will be touring this repertory with Tom Stoppard's Travesties, which follows it here. Playhouse (0863 247139). Until Jan 11.

THE TIMES CHOICE

CONCERTS

HANDFORD/HALLE: Besides Joanne Greenberg soloing in Greg's Piano Concerto, Maurice Handford conducts the Halle Orchestra in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro overture and Eggar's Symphony No 2.

FILMS

A CHORUS LINE (PG): After almost a decade of hesitation, Michael Bennett's stage musical about show business arrives on the screen, directed by Richard Attenborough in a nervous array of styles.

ORON'S BELT (18): The most lavish feature yet made in Norway - a Cold War thriller appropriately set against Arctic scenery. Three adventures tumble upon a Soviet surveillance post.

SELECTED

FIRE FESTIVAL (18): Traditional life-styles and modes of civilization battle for supremacy on the Japanese coast. A raw, jolting film from Mitsuo Yanagimachi, packed with odd behaviour from man and nature with Kirya Katoji (above). ICA Cinema (01-590 3647).

BLACK HARCROSS (18): Powell and Pressburger's exotic and breathtaking drama of 1947 set in a Himalayan convent with Deborah Kerr. A dazzling British achievement.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET at Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) dances Coppélia today (matinee and evening) and Mon. Then a programme (Tues, Wed) of the four most recent seasons for the company: Darius Milhaud's Flowers of the Forest, Michael Corder's Wand of Youth, and the London premieres of Graham Lustig's Caught in Time and Susan Crow's Trust and Fidelity.

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Joan Plowright (above) as the warm-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter in Anthony Page's production, Lyttelton (01-928 2252), in repertory.

DANCE

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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A traditional pantomime vividly achieved, with Vicky Likorish as Jack, Matthew Kelly as Mrs Robinson and some robust audience participation. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 7727). Final performance today.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the English nobleman Borgia in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. With Edward Petherbridge, Jonathan Hyde, Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Lyttelton (01-928 2252), in repertory.

LIVERPOOL: The Divines Are Coming: Morecombe and Wise scriptwriter Eddie Braben's first stage comedy features Alison Steadman, Nick Stringer, El Woods and Jim Casey. Playhouse (051 709 8363), until Jan 25.

OXFORD: The Importance of Being Earnest: Oxford Playhouse Company, directed by Richard Williams, will be touring this repertory with Tom Stoppard's Travesties, which follows it here. Playhouse (0863 247139). Until Jan 11.



evening), Tues and Wed. Lesley Collier and Julian Hosking (above) dance Manon on Thurs. Then no performances are available to public booking until Jan 17 because of special programmes for people who have never visited Covent Garden before.

SCOTTISH BALLET also performs The Nutcracker, in Peter Darrell's production, at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234) today, and Aberdeen in a nervous array of styles.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE visits Sheffield City Hall with programmes of Robert de Warren's A Midsummer Night's Dream (Tues, Thurs) and then Les Sylphides and Nutcracker Suite together with Amedeo Amadio's new Suite Ballerina (Fri and Jan 11).

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

SCULPTURE: Work by 18 sculptural stars, such as Calder, Caro, Frink and Paladino; also Roy Lichtenstein. Expressionist woodcuts from 1980, paintings and landscapes from the last two years.

CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY: Anniversary exhibition to mark 75 years of art altruism includes works by Hodgkin, Kapoor and Mach before they are distributed free to national institutions.

PENCIL, PEN AND BRUSH: Mixed show demonstrating the prevalence of drawing skills in British 20th-century art. Artists include David Bomberg, Carl Richards and William Roberts.

SELECTED

HOMAGE TO BARCELONA: Major tribute to the art and architecture of the Spanish city from 1888-1936, with work by Picasso, Miró, Dalí and Gaudí.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ART: PICTORIAL TRADITIONS IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA: More than 100 examples of British and American fine art photography from 1839 to the present day.

BOOKINGS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Postal booking opens this week for new production of Der fliegende Holländer with cast including Robert Lloyd, Simon Estes, and Rosalind Plowright. Also for productions of Il barbiere di Siviglia and Il Trovatore.

DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU: Postal booking opens this week for revival of Schubert's Liederkreis with Hartmut Höll (piano) on March 16. Also Montserrat Caballé (soprano) in recital with Miguel Zanetti (piano) on March 23. Telephone and personal booking from Feb 1.

LONDON SINFONETTA: The new music ensemble will tour Harrison Birtwistle's Secret Theatre for the first time. Programme also includes two works by the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, and Weill's Suite from The Threepenny Opera. Tour starts in London

CONCERTS

HANDFORD/HALLE: Besides Joanne Greenberg soloing in Greg's Piano Concerto, Maurice Handford conducts the Halle Orchestra in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro overture and Eggar's Symphony No 2.

HOPKINS/PLC: Antony Hopkins talks about and conducts the LPO in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro overture, Handel's Water Music, Dvořák's "New World" Symphony, and Carlos Bonell (guitar) solos in Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez.

FREEMAN/RPO: Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia overture, Handel's Water Music, Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony are all played by the RPO under Paul Freeman. Enar Henning Simeyba solos, too, in Greg's Piano Concerto.

HERBIQS/LSO: Günther Herbig conducts the LSO in Weber's Oberon overture, Brahms's Symphony No 1, and Sergei Edelmann solos in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4.

ALMANAC ANNIVERSARY: The founder members of Songmakers Almanac give a family anniversary concert with songs by Schubert and Brahms, including the latter's Liebeslieder Walzer.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The Mastersingers of Nuremberg opens tonight at 8pm, a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's lively, warmly human 1984 production. On Friday Jonathan Miller's austere, cerebral Don Giovanni continues with further performances on Wednesday and January 11 at 7pm. On Thursday at 7pm the penultimate performance of ENO's spectacular, golden Julius Caesar.

OPERA FACTORY: Preview tonight of Nigel Osborne's new opera Half 5 Angels. Further performances on Wednesday and January 11 at 8pm. Opera Factory's La Calisto, by Cavalli, plays on Tuesday and Friday, also at 8pm.

ROCK & JAZZ BARRY MANLOW: How easy it is to forget that buried inside the type surrounding the housewives' superstar lies a gift for pure pop that has found expression in such kitsch gems as "Mandy", "Could It Be Magic" and "It's a Miracle".

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR: Concluding the latest ICA Rock Week, in which each night has been programmed by a trend-spotting rock star. Tonight Jerry Springer is a gift for pure pop that has found expression in such kitsch gems as "Mandy", "Could It Be Magic" and "It's a Miracle".

SIX FOR '86: Hot on the heels of the Rock Week, the ICA hosts a rather more sophisticated event devoted to music on the boundaries of rock, jazz and the classical world.

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephons the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jaze Checkland; Photographers: Michael Young; Dances: John Percival; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Hilary Finch; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

